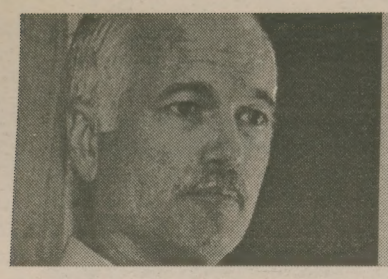

NDP leader defends alliance

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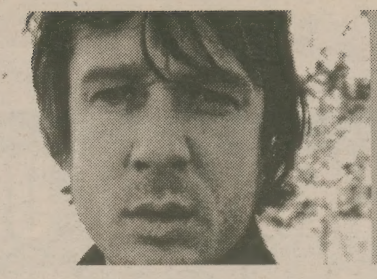

Matt Sharp

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Teaching your grandmother to suck eggs for 57 years.

MARTLET

Thursday, September 23, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 57, Issue 7

Writer, photographer, adventurer, student: Steve Canning's lasting legacy

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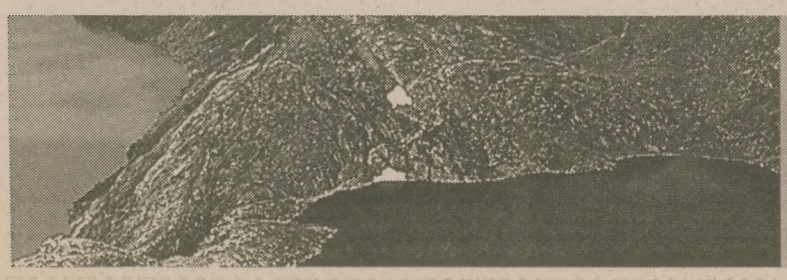
BERKLEY BRADY PHOTO



The disaster of climate change

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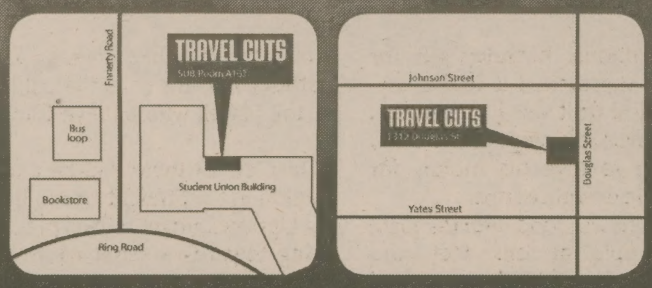

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Steve Canning, as remembered by a friend

Writer, photographer, adventurer and student. Since his death last spring Canning has left a lasting legacy

by B. Brady

If you're wondering where Steve Canning is this fall, you're not alone.

Officially, Steve is still near the top of Mount Logan in the Yukon, where he died last May after falling from the summit. He was doing what he loved, but most importantly, Steve lived everyday of his life doing what he loved.

If you never got the chance to meet Steve, you should know that his friends called him Gunt. I was introduced to him as such, and it wasn't until a few years later that I learned it wasn't his given name. When I told him this, he threw back his head and laughed. Turns out he got the nickname because, in good humour, it was simply the worst name his friends could imagine someone having.

You might have seen Steve around. He was a tall man with a head of infamously golden-red curls. He might have been wearing a pair of threadbare hemp pants, and he would certainly have been smiling, the expression of someone following his dreams.

As Steve put it, he was able to write, photograph, ski, hike, climb and explore for a living, and he did just so, alternating his time between the university campus and mountain tops. At any given time he could be writing for a fiction class, designing a website for Backpackers News, planning his next trip or leading an avalanche course. He had no reason to rush through his degree, as he'd already acquired a solid reputation in his fields of interest: guiding, ecological restoration, biology and writing.

To anyone found suffering from university angst and a lack of direction, pondering, "What to do?" Gunt would smile and ask, "What do you want to do?"

He knew that following your passions leads to meeting like-minded people, which inevitably means pursuing ambitions instead of wondering what they could be.

Before he died, Steve wrote that his life would have meaning if a single person stood up at his funeral saying he had inspired them to live with less fear. He touched over 300 people in his life and moved them all to live fearlessly. Most were at his funeral and all would stand to testify to his impact on each of their lives.

On Sept. 18 and 19, 20 of those people hiked through the Golden Ears Mountains near Maple Ridge to celebrate what would have been his 23rd birthday. Gunt hiked these mountains dozens of times, the first when he was 14 years old and again a few years later wearing only a pair of red, heart-covered boxers.

The memorial hike included immediate family and friends from his hometown of Maple Ridge. There were also people who had met him in Victoria and through other Island adventures. While some had already made close friendships, others had never met.

Everyone shared love and respect for Steve. And that's what kept us smiling as we climbed a raging creek bed in torrential rain, the heaviest rain on record for that day.

At the campsite, we huddled under a cluster of tarps. The water seeped through the plastic in heavy droplets, occasionally dumping onto our already-wet heads. People gathered together, making pasta and telling stories.

We heard tales of a freshman camping trip, where Gunt drifted away from the group, only to be found much later French kissing a Douglas fir. We learned that Gunt didn't talk for three days during a lengthy ski tour, keeping quiet when his wisdom teeth erupted.

Instead of cake, we ate a fresh pineapple. It was his friend Shandell's traditional birthday gift for Steve, so she carried it to the top. The tropical fruit was his favourite, but he never splurged on the treat, preferring to save his money for travel and adventure trips.

That night we stood with the plate of pineapple at our feet and mourned the friend who had brought us together. We sang happy birthday into the rain, the wild and all the places where Steve Canning is.

On Oct. 23 there will be a silent auction in the Student Union Building Upper Lounge, with all proceeds going towards a scholarship dedicated to Steve's memory.

B. BRADY PHOTO

Friends and family mourn UVic student Steve Canning and share a pineapple during a memorial hike at Golden Ears Mountain on what would have been his 23rd birthday.

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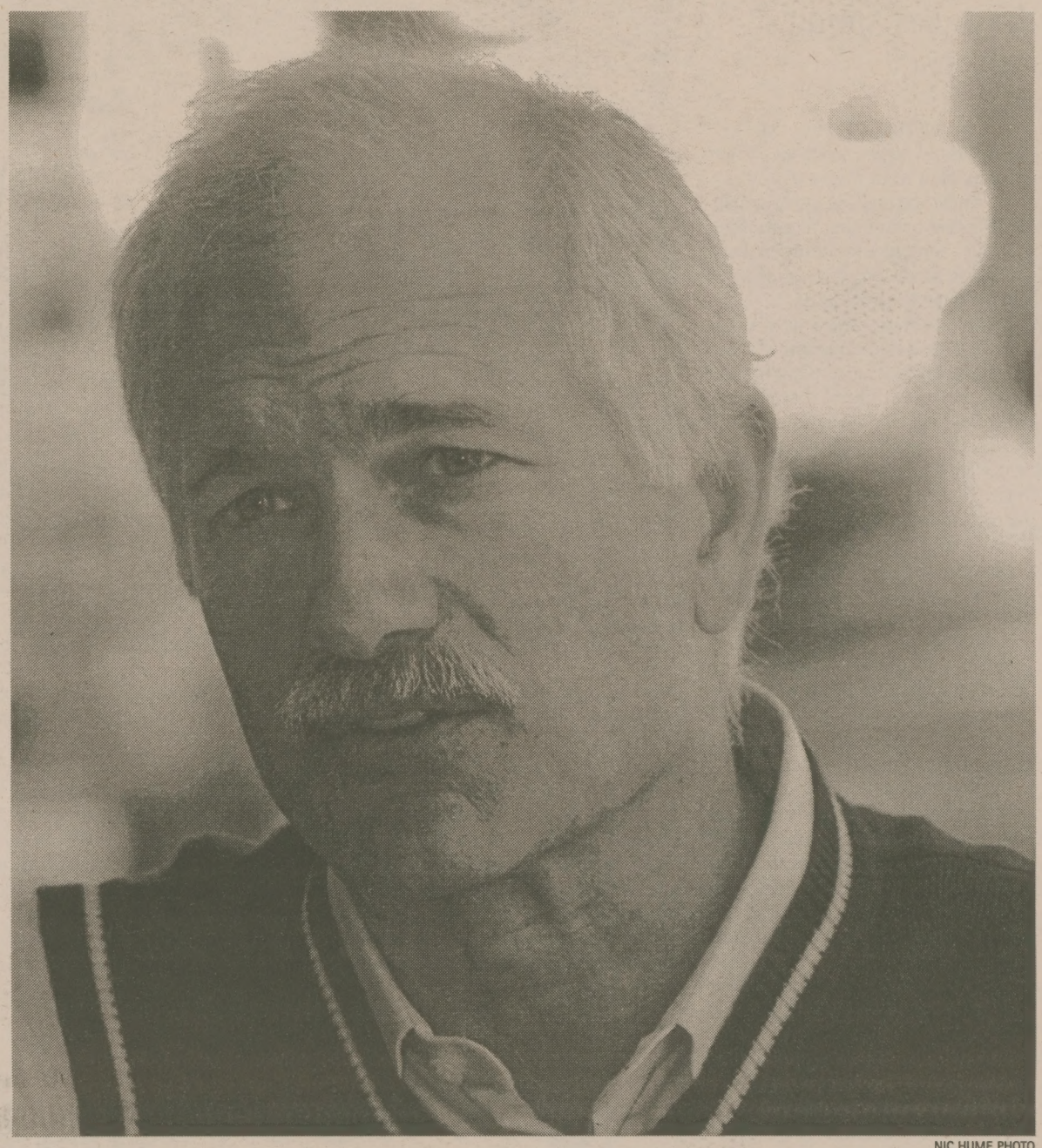
NDP leader defends alliance

by Sean Patrick Sullivan



NIC HUME PHOTO

NDP leader Jack Layton says that his party's brief alliance with the Tories and Bloc is for the best.

It's midway through a coffee date with Jack Layton that the federal NDP leader checks his cell phone, excuses himself, and takes a call from the prime minister.

Layton—as animated as usual—was careful to tiptoe around the reason for the call, but it's safe to assume it was a cordial one at best.

Two weeks ago he met with Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe and Conservative Leader Stephen Harper to announce the details of how the three opposition parties will cooperate this autumn. With a total of 173 seats (versus the Liberals' 135) in the House of Commons, the unlikely troika holds more sway than the minority Liberals, and plan to put their pull to good use.

The trio has threatened to make changes to next month's Throne Speech, sent a letter to the Governor-General asking to be consulted if the prime minister asks for Parliament to be dissolved and an election called, and want all opposition motions put to a vote. They are also asking that committees have more power.

But what will NDPers think of their leader working so closely with the Conservatives, whose policies are at the other end of the political spectrum? Won't concessions have to be made—on all sides—if the opposition leaders are to work so closely together?

"This is no coalition of the winning. This was a very specific agreement to work to change the way the House of Commons works procedurally," he explained. "I had some things I wanted done, and they had some things they wanted done, and we all agreed on those things. We didn't have to compromise or agree with something that we wouldn't have pushed for in any event."

Layton insists that despite the cooperation needed, the NDP will not help pass policies that conflict with his party's beliefs.

In person, it's hard to doubt him. The 53-year-old is confident and convincing, with exuberance other party leaders lack. Handsome, energetic and fit—he hasn't owned a car in years and still cycles to work—he has been credited with bringing energy back to a party that lost it years ago.

As he sips a coffee on this sunny afternoon on Blanshard Street, passersby smile and wave. He nods back, and after a short pause, carefully crafts his words.

"This government is acting, to some degree, as if it's still in a majority," he said. "That's where there may be some interim tactical alliances around the strengthening of Parliament."

Other than procedural changes, he says, there is little the three parties actually agree upon.

"It's hard to see how there could be any substantial set of ideas on which we could come to an agreement," he continued, referring to the Tories. "Our philosophies and values that we would bring to bear on policy making are diametrically opposed in almost every imaginable circumstance to what Mr. Harper is proposing."

People in Toronto—where he was active in municipal politics for almost 20 years—are not worried about his dealings with the Conservatives because they know him, he says. "But across the country, that photograph of the three amigos..." he trailed off.

The alliance comes less than three months after a particularly bitter election campaign, during which all parties warned that any such coalition could be damaging for Canada. In the first week of June, Layton asked how a coalition between the Bloc and the Conservatives could be "good for building the Canada that Canadians want?" Two weeks later, Harper defended himself against accusations he would join with another party in the event of a minority government.

"I will not under any circumstances form a coalition or alliance with the Bloc Québécois or the NDP. And if we face circumstances where I should consult them, I will not even make the effort to do so," Harper told reporters on a rally stop in North Bay, Ontario, a week and a half before the election.

How things have changed.

Ultimately, Layton said, it's a temporary deal.

"In terms of changing the way Parliament works, and having it be a more effective instrument for democracy, we do intend to work together on those procedural changes," he said. All three leaders agreed that a vote in the House should be held when Canada is considering deploying troops or signing treaties with other nations, and also want a House vote on same-sex marriage issues.

"We would probably vote differently," he laughed, "but we agree there should be a vote."

He said he was surprised that the Bloc and Conservatives—specifically Harper—agreed to establish a permanent standing committee on women's issues. "That's what I wanted to do, that was my goal," he said.

Standing committees on heritage protection, First Nations issues, and environmental issues are mostly ignored by the Liberals, he said, which is why the three parties are asking for committees to have more power.

On its own, the NDP is working to bring a proposal to the House for a referendum on proportional representation.

He has discussed it with the other opposition leaders; they supported the idea last year, but that was when they knew it wouldn't pass, Layton said.

"Mr. Harper says his party is worried about minority governments and instabilities. In other words, they know that in the past they've tended to be able to win, but when they've won, it's not usually with 50 per cent of the vote," he chuckled. "They don't want to give up that option."

The Bloc wants whatever system protects the issues of Quebec and provides appropriate representation, he said.

When prompted for an embarrassing story about another opposition leader—perhaps they all got a good laugh in when Stephen Harper spilled a milkshake on his pants?—Layton smiled.

"No, no: there's nothing like that," he said. "They do have a gym for MPs though, and there is one little rule: we don't tell anybody what happens in the gym."

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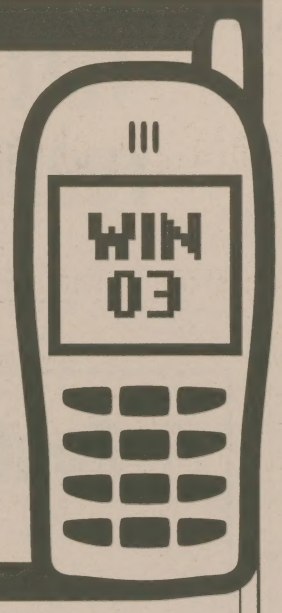

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A Service of the UVic Students' Society

Legends of rock lend names to fundraising concert

by Megan Stewart

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Steven Page (left) looks on as David Suzuki sounds off on "the critical question". He said that a clean environment doesn't have to come at the cost of jobs: "What's controversial about clean air?"

An impressive group of Canadian cultural dignitaries swung through the Cowichan Valley last weekend, playing to a packed house for the Crofton Clean Air Concert. One by one, Neil Young, The Barenaked Ladies, Randy Bachman and Tal Bachman took to a temporary stage inside the Duncan hockey rink and jammed for nearly five hours on Sept. 17. David Suzuki rounded out the evening and spoke from a half century's worth of environmental research and activism. Although tickets for the show cost between $100 and $250, the bevy of Canadian icons entertained the masses free of charge. All proceeds—estimated at somewhere near $50,000—were destined for the Crofton Airshed Citizens Group (CACG), a panel of grassroots environmentalists concerned about emissions released from the NorskeCanada paper and pulp mill in Crofton, 20 km west of Duncan.

"To be frank," said CACG front man Michael Abelman before the show, "I think many people will be here for the music before the cause." CACG was formed last November after employees and valley residents learned that the mill would be burning coal, tires and railway ties to fuel its electricity-generating boiler. CACG was formed to give voice to the 500 or so concerned citizens living in the valley, many of whom report respiratory and circulatory problems they believe have been caused by many years of breathing pollutants emitted from the mill.

A spokesperson for Norske has said the corporation adheres to all accepted protocols set out by federal and provincial governments, including weekly and monthly sampling by independent auditors. In a released statement, CACG outlined its specific concerns with the self-regulating practices governing Norske, independent inspectors or not. "There are no nationally or provincially enforced standards for pulp and paper mill toxic emissions—only guidelines—and that industry is responsible for monitoring itself.

"We discovered that nobody really [knows] whether the emissions from the Crofton mill were harmful or not because a baseline study and health risk assessment [has] never been done."

With the money raised, CACG will arrange to bring in its own scientists and independent auditors to sample emissions. The panel's primary concerns are chemicals and toxic compounds such as sulphur and chlorine dioxides, carbon monoxide and volatile organic matter, which are suspected to cause asthma, problems with the central nervous system and even cancer. Headliner Randy Bachman—who gained fame with the Guess Who and Bachman Turner Overdrive—came under fire from central-Island reporters who claimed he wanted the mill closed at the cost of nearly 1,000 jobs. "[W]e will not rest until the Crofton mill is shut down permanently," read an e-mail he and his wife Denise sent the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection in January.

Bachman later released a statement though his publicist, saying he regretted taking a contrary stance to the goals of CACG. "I fully support the right of the people to make a decent living. I don't want anyone to lose their job," read the statement. "We all support the right to breathe clean air and can work together to achieve it."

CACG's objectives were laid out by Abelman prior to the concert: "No one in this group has ever publicly or privately admitted that it is our goal to shut down the mill. Our concern is about the broader emissions that are coming from the mill. No corporation is going to do more than they have to. They're talking about the bottom line."

Environmental guru David Suzuki lent his sage wisdom to the evening, supporting CACG's move to raise both awareness and funds through the concert and to bring its hand-picked group of scientists. He made his case that a clean environment won't necessarily result in a loss of jobs.

"Every time the economy is in trouble we ask Mother Nature to pay the price," said Suzuki. "There is a false dichotomy that cleaning up the environment will cost jobs. What's controversial about clean air?"

As Neil Young sat on stage amid half a dozen guitars, catcalls and hoser-hoots filled the arena. The aging rock god treated the audience to two legendary songs before he and his wife Pegi filled the air with folk music and lesser-known tunes.

"It's a good cause," he said. "Thanks for the money."

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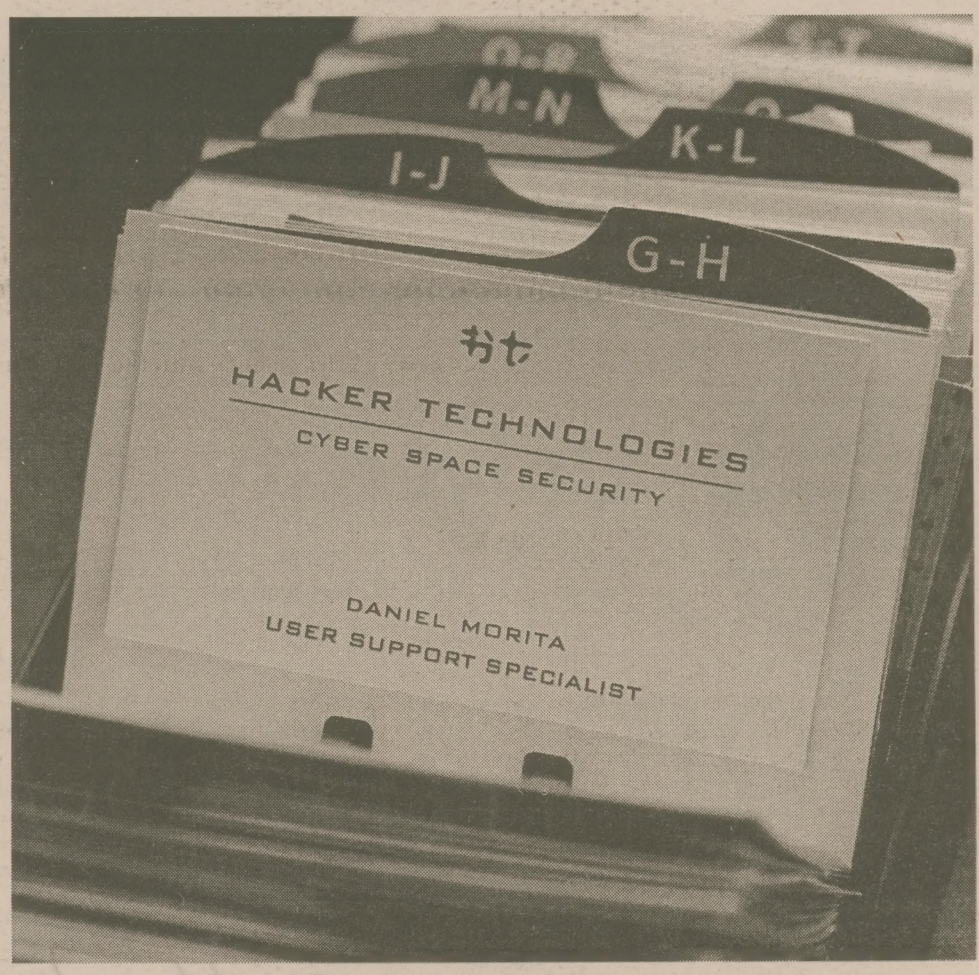

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UN envoy calls for help

$12 billion need to deal with HIV/AIDS pandemic in 2005

by Ashley Heaslip

The empty halls of universities and offices in Africa may seem far from the jam-packed corridors of UVic, but according to Stephen Lewis, the United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, they are increasingly becoming interconnected.

In a lecture to over 600 people on Saltspring Island last Sunday, Lewis discussed the stark contrast between offices in Africa that are sitting empty because so many are being infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, and the overflowing hospitals that are filled beyond maximum capacity with AIDS patients.

He compared this to Canada, saying that here "there is a depth of resolve that supersedes that of other countries and makes me very proud." He told of local efforts, particularly of Saltspring Organization for Life Improvement and Development (SOLID), to help fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic that is "exterminating" Africa.

Speaking about a trip to Lesotho, a small southern African country, Lewis described the conditions in one hospital he visited as "horror beyond anything that anyone could prepare you for." While struggling to hold back tears, Lewis described a situation where 80 per cent of the hospital beds were occupied by AIDS patients, whose numbers were so high that there were two people to every bed and another underneath. "Nurses would wheel in aluminum coffins and take away the people who had most recently died," he said.

Lewis spoke of "glimmers of hope" that gave him inspiration in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In a world where over 40 million people are infected with HIV, Lewis explained that initiatives such as the World Health Organization's "Three-by-Five" Program, which hopes that three million people will have access to life-prolonging drugs (called anti-retrovirals or ARVs) by 2005, have created a "real sense of breakthrough."

However, he strongly warned that this is not enough. Worldwide there are six million people in need of ARV treatment for survival, over four million of whom are in Africa. Currently, only 150,000 to 200,000 people in Africa have access to ARVs. Lewis explained that the 14 million AIDS orphans in Africa would be better off if their parents lived for five or ten more years because of access to ARV treatment.

Lewis applauded the Canadian government for being the largest donor country to the "Three-by-Five" Program, contributing $100 million and also working to pass Bill C-9. The bill would allow Canadian generic drug companies to produce and sell ARVs to developing countries at a much cheaper cost than brand-name pharmaceutical companies.

While congratulating the U.S. administration for pledging close to $3 billion a year over the next five years to HIV/AIDS relief in Africa, Lewis questioned the terms, set by the Bush administration, on how the money is to be used. The U.S. has stipulated that 30 per cent of its contribution go to faith-based organizations, which generally support abstinence as the best way to combat AIDS.

According to Lewis, statistics show that $12 billion will be needed to deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic in 2005. If nothing is done, he added, that number will rise to $20 billion by 2007. However, the international community raised only $4.3 billion last year, leading Lewis to question how governments could fail to such a great extent when they are "providing the resources they so easily provide for conflict and war."

He pointed out that over $87 billion has been spent by the U.S. administration in the "War on Terror" when "we could be saving millions of lives for a fraction of what we are spending in Iraq and Afghanistan."

NIC HUME PHOTO

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Grad student wins top award

by Megan Stewart

How do you say "huge potential success" in German? How about Uber-Mark Neufeld?

The University of Victoria graduate student snagged the inaugural Joe Plaskett Foundation Award, which, along with a hefty purse of $25,000, is one of Canada's top prizes for visual arts.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a Canadian art student who is working towards or already in possession of a master's degree in fine arts with a focus in painting. Neufeld, a one-time gravestone carver, was one of 24 final contenders for the distinction and was chosen by a group of three panelists headed by Plaskett himself.

When he heard the news, Neufeld said he was "totally surprised" that he earned the prize. "Well maybe I can't say that," he said. "The criteria, the eligibility to qualify for the award was pretty limiting."

Although he is modest, Neufeld's work is deserving of praise. In the letter notifying Neufeld of the coming distinction, Plaskett wrote that his work "stood clearly out from the rest" and that Neufeld exhibited a particular "control...even mastery of many of the complexities of the painter's art."

Eighty-six-year-old Plaskett, dubbed the grand old man of B.C. painting by local pundits, created the award in the hopes of returning the favour, so to speak, that helped launch his own career.

In 1946, Plaskett was awarded the first Emily Carr scholarship. He had the honour of being nominated by Lawren Harris and A.Y. Jackson, both of Group of Seven fame. While he continued to paint—his work is hanging in several major Canadian galleries—he taught for several years before relocating to Paris.

Plaskett's work features still life scenes and interior compositions. Neufeld also has a penchant for painting interior scenes. Although he said it's possible that Plaskett was intrinsically drawn to familiar themes, Neufeld doesn't think that's the reason he earned the award.

"I think my work is different enough from his that there is not really any kind of kindred feel between our painting," he said.

Before coming to Vancouver Island, Neufeld, a graduate of the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, was a professional gravestone carver in Vancouver. He moved to Victoria last summer with his wife, Leigh Bridges, and enrolled in the visual arts graduate program at UVic.

NIC HUME PHOTO

"There's an open house today and I sort of got a little gussied up," said Mark Neufeld, visual artist, UVic grad student and the first recipient of the $25,000 Joe Plaskett Award.

The intimate arrangement of the degree program suits Neufeld, who said it's ideal to be able to "mix it up with other disciplines and mediums."

The 32-year-old painter will use the money to travel to and study in Berlin, saying that he has been drawn to a range of German art from Gothic stages to more modern styles of painting and architecture, which he considers "fantastic."

"Germany is the hub of some really good contemporary art these days and I have to admit I've been looking at German art for quite some time now," he said.

After he completes his master's degree in the spring of 2005, Neufeld plans to head to Europe later that summer. The scholarship isn't linked to any institution or university, so Neufeld is free to do as he sees fit, or as he puts it, "get my heels into the culture and make art."

Vertigo re-opens

by Tim Hanson

After being closed for three years, Vertigo, the former nightclub in the SUB, was officially re-opened on Sept. 15 to a warm and welcoming reception by students. Boasting a MuchMusic video screen and several Xbox consoles about the room, UVic students had a great time kicking back, relaxing and enjoying their new "hangout."

"The re-opening went really well," said Agata Lis, UVic Students' Society director of finance. Armed with foosball tables, ping-pong tables and a projection screen, Vertigo is now being used as an all-ages recreational facility and club space.

"The Skateboard Club, Swing Dance Club, Go Club, and Salsa Club are all using space in Vertigo now," commented Lis. "They not only have space to use, but also a venue that provides them some exposure."

In addition, Vertigo will be host to a few special events in the future. "We've got UVic Idol, a Battle of the Bands, and a Halloween party coming up," said Mike Tan, UVSS director of services. "We've got a new sound system in there now, so we'll try to get a few more parties here and there. We're trying to get a Warren Miller Night going and we're making plans for Xavier Rudd and a burlesque show."

"A major complaint of students last year was that everything in the SUB closes up after 4 p.m.," said Lis.

Vertigo will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. When asked why certain days and times were excluded, she explained that the concerns of different groups had to be addressed. "Nobody's around on Fridays," she said, "and we also need time [during the day] for clubs and groups who wish to rent the space out."

Vertigo unofficially closed in 2001 after an independent audit and criminal investigation confirmed that the UVSS had lost $450,000 due in part to business mismanagement and to former SUB Business Manager Vivek Sharma.

Sharma plead guilty to two counts of fraud in exchange for having the charges of theft over $5,000 and of causing someone to use a forged document dropped. He is currently serving eight months under house arrest, to be followed by one year on parole, and must pay $14,000 in restitution to the UVSS.

Information Security and Object
Technology (ISOT) Research Lab

University of Victoria

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Call for Participants to a Computer Security Study

The protection of computing systems and their users is a critical objective in this Internet era. A common protection mechanism consists of using a password to access your personal computer. Passwords, however, are notoriously insecure. There are several tools on the Internet that allow intruders to easily crack protection mechanisms such as passwords. A good alternative to passwords consists of using biometrics technologies. A biometrics technology consists of the automated use of a collection of factors describing human behavioral or physiological characteristics to establish or verify a precise identity. Examples of biometrics include finger-scan, iris-scan, retina-scan, hand-scan, and facial-scan and others.

We have developed in our research lab a new biometrics technology, which analyzes and develops user interactions patterns. These patterns are used to establish unique and distinctive profiles for every user. These profiles can be used as a biometrics data in order to protect individual computer users.

Our technology is under patenting process and is sponsored jointly by the National Science and Engineering Council (NSERC) and the Innovation Development Corporation (IDC) of the University of Victoria.

A limited user population consisting of 22 participants has already validated successfully the technology. We are starting a new round of validation, in which we would like to involve up to 1000 participants.

To participate in the study, you need to have a personal computer and an Internet connection. The study doesn't require any particular skills or time commitment. All volunteers will receive a 20$ gift certificate at the end of the study. To participate or ask for more information please send an email at *isot@engr.uvic.ca*

Students spread Falun Gong

by Michelle Martin

MICHELLE MARTIN PHOTO

UVic students Matthew Simon, left, and Matt Little in Beacon Hill Park.

Falun Gong practitioners appear tranquil as they practise in Beacon Hill Park, but the activity is as politically charged as it is spiritual. Peaceful practitioners in China are suffering unimaginable human rights injustices—from detainment in forced labour camps to death by torture—for refusing to denounce the practice.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, was first introduced to the public in 1992 and is now practiced in over 50 countries worldwide. "It is the fastest growing spiritual movement in human history," said Falun Gong practitioner and UVic English student Matt Little. "Over 100 million people began practising in only eight years."

Testimonials from local practitioners explain the movement's popularity. "Before Falun Gong I felt like an empty jar, always looking for something to fill it, to distract me from the sense of emptiness," said Little, who admitted to filling the void by smoking pot and binge drinking. However, once he started practicing Falun Gong everything changed.

"The first time I did it I felt calm, satisfied and totally content," he said.

Soon after, Little read the Zhuan Falun (Revolving the Law Wheel) by Falun Gong's master teacher Li Hongzhi, which explains how cultivating the universally essential characteristics of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance can lead to enlightenment. He found reading the book to be an experience that compelled him to be more virtuous. "It's about trying to give up the desires and attachments we've accumulated, so our hearts do not ache for anything," he said.

This peaceful introspective practice has received an unbelievably hostile response from leadership in communist China. In July 1999, then-President Jiang Zemin banned Falun Gong and launched a persecution campaign against all those who practice it.

According to the Falun Dafa Information Centre, there were 48 confirmed deaths in China in June and July 2004, bringing the total number of confirmed deaths since the persecution began to 1,024. Alarmingly, government officials in China have indicated the real number of deaths to be over 5,000. Many of these practitioners were tortured to death by, for example, whippings, burnings, beatings and electric shocks. In addition, hundreds of thousands of practitioners have been illegally detained, tortured and sent to forced-labour camps.

The origins of the Chinese government's intense hatred of Falun Gong are unknown. Little, however, believes the virtuous principles of Falun Gong and its popularity threatened the president.

"The Chinese government is corrupt and when people start practicing virtues it makes them less likely to commit wrong," he said. "This is threatening to corrupt people because it sets a standard."

Many analysts have identified four factors that have led to the crackdown on Falun Gong in China. These factors include resentment from Jiang Zemin, widespread suppression of beliefs in China, the popularity of the practice (Falun Gong practitioners outnumber members of the Chinese Communist Party) and the fact that party officials scapegoat Falun Gong for political gains.

Many local practitioners actively spread awareness of the situation in China, following the Zhuan Falun's belief that standing up for what is right is sacred law. Practitioner Jane Banks is making sure the persecutions are not kept a secret by setting up information boards in Centennial Square on weekday mornings while she does her daily exercises beside them. "It is important that people understand the urgency of the situation in China," she said.

UVic librarian Carole Collard started an information booth for use at the university three years ago. In the past, Collard noticed that Chinese students were hesitant to approach the booth. She attributed their hesitation to fear and the Chinese government's suppression of the truth. However, she noticed that in 2004 many more Chinese students looked at the information.

Unlike most Falun Gong groups, the majority of practitioners in Victoria are westerners. Victoria practitioners meet at Beacon Hill Park across from the children's farm every Saturday and Sunday morning at 10 a.m. to practise their exercises, as well as at the Fernwood Community Association on Wednesday nights.

As a result of the interest shown at UVic's club days, five people have formed a University of Victoria Students' Society Falun Gong club and plan to meet weekly on Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. near the fountain.

"There is a good effect for students," said Collard. "Since I've been doing the exercises every day stress, doesn't affect me. It helps students focus more on studying."

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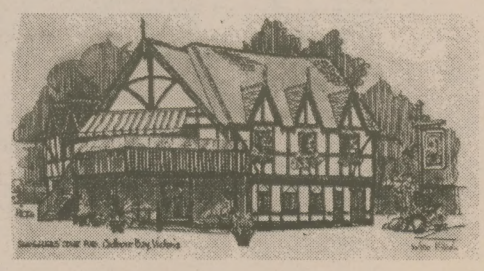


PROVIDED PHOTO

The hybrid SUV Ford Escape devours your soul while saving the environment.

The disaster of climate change

Depends on your definition of disaster

by Andrew Cienski

There's been quite a buzz around climate change of late. This past spring, the Martlet covered the appointment of seven UVic scientists to the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This summer saw the release of Hollywood's sensational *The Day After Tomorrow,* which depicted an overnight ice age. More recently, last month's issue of National Geographic gave evidence of climate change already happening.

That the climate is changing is an undisputed fact among scientists. Arctic permafrost is thawing, glaciers are melting and animals are altering their migratory routes. Many experts attribute these changes to an increase in global mean temperature. The effects can be seen in British Columbia's rash of forest fires, the flooding of European rivers and the increase in number and severity of storms, like Hurricane Ivan, which was the third hurricane in that area in the past month and was given the most severe rating of five.

It requires somewhat of a shift in one's thinking. Anyone under 40 years old has grown up under the ominous cloud (if you will) of the greenhouse effect that only ever threatened to permanently alter life on earth. The doomsday prophecies were always dampened by a qualifying "If things don't change then..." Most of us have witnessed the shift from leaded to unleaded gasoline, the dawn of the blue box. I was living in Ontario during the resurrection of Sudbury. The once-veritable moonscape (they once filmed a science fiction movie there, set on an alien world) poisoned by the local nickel industry bloomed into a regular Earth mining town where trees grew along the sides of the roads and grass grew on people's lawns.

There always seemed to be reason to hope. But, according to the IPCC, it was all too little, too late—the climate is already changing. So what can we expect? The IPCC predicts that by the end of the century, the mean global temperature will rise by four degrees compared to its levels in 1860. This might not sound like a lot, but the last ice age was only five degrees colder than the planet's current temperature. The average rate of warming of the planet this century is greater than at any time during the past 10,000 years.

Conservative estimates predict sea levels will rise by approximately half a metre by 2100. Adaptation to such a change is simply impossible for countries with large river deltas such as Bangladesh, Southern China and Egypt, and for many island states in the Pacific.

Within the next 150 years, we will see 150 million environmental refugees due to more intense flooding, drought, and rises in the sea level.

Vector-borne diseases like malaria and water-borne diseases like dysentery will put 290 million additional people worldwide at risk by 2080. The greatest increases in risk are expected in China and central Asia.

Dr. Andrew Weaver of the University of Victoria (UVic) has worked with the panel since the mid-90s, and says there is no doubt at all that the climate and oceanic warming we are witnessing is a direct result of human influence. He says this has been a certainty for a long time, so much so that the panel's main objective is no longer to prove the case, but to convince state policy makers to address the numerous industrial and domestic contributors of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. It was one of these papers that influenced the creation of the Kyoto Accord, an agreement signed by most of the G-8 countries as well as other developed and developing nations. The agreement states among other things, that carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions must be returned to pre-1990 levels.

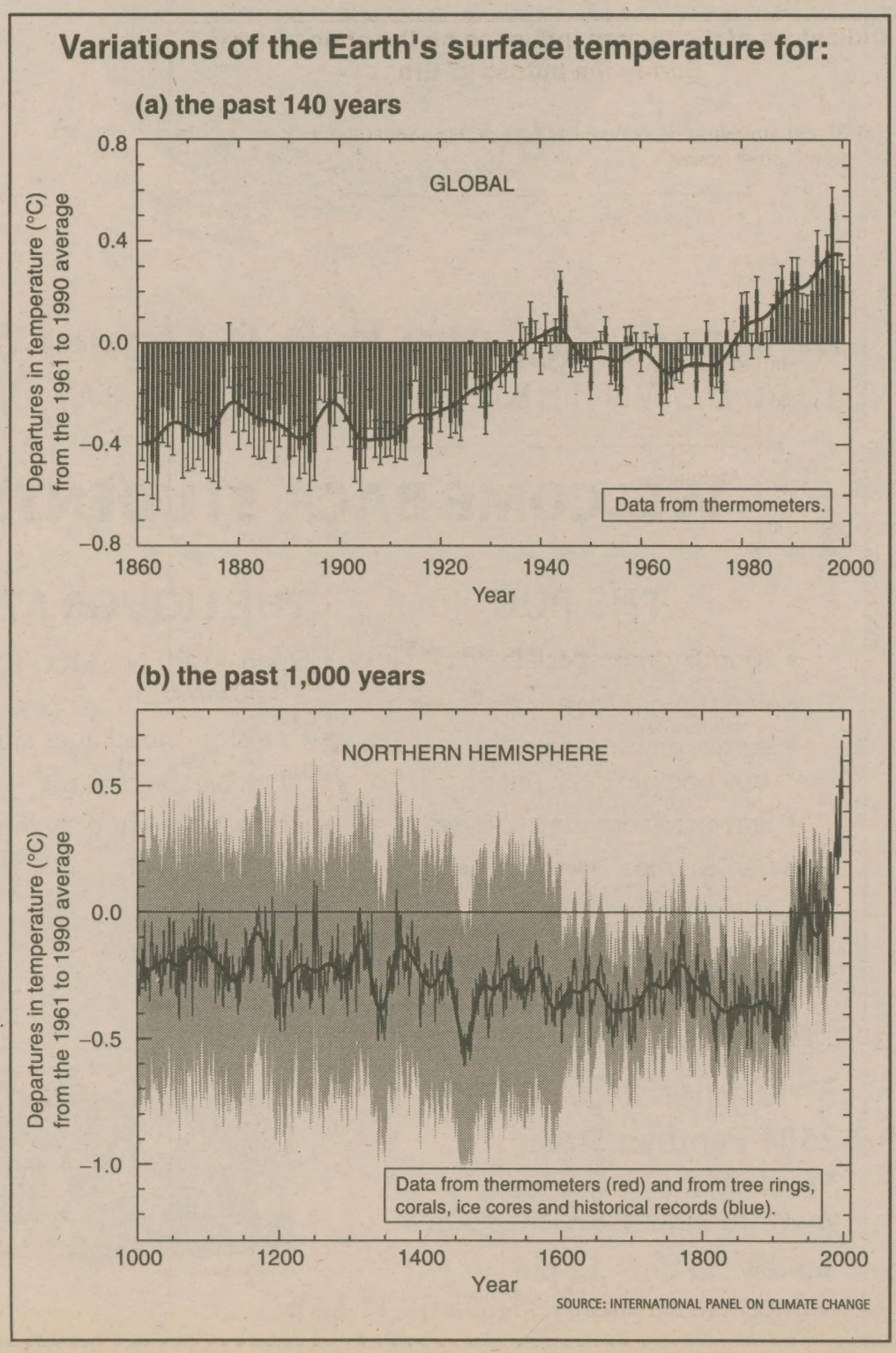
The rising of the global thermometer will change weather patterns everywhere, increasing the likelihood of extreme weather. In some cases the changes will be negligible, like here in Victoria. But in Africa, where water resources are already stressed, decreased rainfall will increase water- and vector-borne diseases. Resulting falls in grain yields will further impact large numbers of people. These people can only hope for outside assistance, considering their countries' economies and infrastructures will not be able to address a much-heavier burden on resources.

Similarly Asia is projected to see much more extreme weather—including floods, forest fires and tropical cyclones—says the latest IPCC report. Case in point: this summer's floods in Bangladesh left thousands dead and 10 million homeless. The country's floods have historically happened every 10 years, but this time they were three years early, and more monsoon rains are anticipated. Climatologists blame the floods on global climate change, but there are other contributing factors. As the BBC reported, excessive logging has compromised the land's ability to absorb heavy rains and allowed for erosion that silted up rivers, limiting their water capacity. International organizations are moving in to compensate for Bangladesh's weak economy and overburdened infrastructure.

Ultimately, the disaster of climate change (ecological considerations aside) is less about the kind of apocalypse portrayed in *The Day After Tomorrow*. It's more about the abilities of particular countries to cope with increasing potential for storms and droughts, and the effects of these on food and energy production, as well as disease, housing and the general protection of their populations. The UN report collectively calls these considerations "adaptation."

It is at this point that climatologists and economists diverge. Since adaptation is largely an economically dependent issue, economists often don't look much further than economic effects of climate-related events. By way of example, Reuters UK reported Hurricane Ivan killed 33 people in Florida, while the more recent tropical storm (weaker than a hurricane) has just been reported to have killed 600 people in Haiti. None of the articles mentioned the monetary cost of the storm in Haiti, but many discussed the potential $6.8 billion US payout in Florida.

On the upside, it was also reported that stocks in All State (one of the



PROVIDED PHOTO

Warming oceans change migratory routes of salmon.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Glaciers are melting. What are you doing to stop it?

major insurance companies involved in the Hurricane Ivan payouts) and other insurers and reinsurers rose by 37 cents the day the hurricane hit. Insurers are protecting themselves additionally by charging customers deductibles for each of the three hurricanes that hit the southern states in the past month.

Of course all the damaged properties will have to be rebuilt, giving a shot in the arm to the local construction industry. In the end, hurricanes can be very helpful to the economy. Strong economies are able to minimize loss of life by having populations living in well-constructed homes with the resources and technology to quickly deal with the destruction, before problems like disease and malnutrition arise.

With the ability of wealthy nations to adapt to the effects of climate change, there is little incentive to do much about things like CO_2 emissions, despite calls from environmental groups to do so. In fact, most economists resist government legislation like the Kyoto Accord. The accord aims to cut greenhouse emissions (those produced by the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil) to pre-1990 levels. To meet these levels, industry would have to install filtration systems and take other measures to minimize emissions, measures that would ultimately decrease productivity and increase cost.

Ultimately, profits would be affected, which would lower salaries, increase unemployment and lower national Gross Domestic Product (GDp). On top of this, the price of gasoline would rise by 15 cents per litre. The cost of heating a home with gas or oil would go up by 45 per cent. The cost of coal, used for making steel and consumer products would increase by 550 per cent, says a report by the Fraser Institute.

The only means of economic survival for families would be to consume less. Homes would have to be smaller and better insulated, commuters would have to live closer to work and/or take the bus instead of driving their cars, if they could still afford to have cars at all. Without this degree of sacrifice, the Kyoto Accord's goal of reducing CO_2 emissions by 240 megatons by 2012, will not be reached.

Economists ask if the economic cost to a country is not worse than the predicted effects of the climate change the accord is trying to mitigate. Unfortunately for the environmentalist position, there is an even stronger argument against Kyoto and similar protocols, and that is that even such drastic cuts to emissions will still not make a difference. Within the century, the level of CO_2 in the atmosphere will be at levels not seen by the planet since the reign of the dinosaur. All that gas is locked in now, and reducing any further output will make negligible, if any, changes to the course we have set ourselves to as a species (or at least the greatest-consuming and most-polluting group of the species).

That said, some economists doubt the very existence of global warming, stating that fluctuations in the earth's climate are well documented. Dr. Kees Van Kooten, a UVic professor and the author of *Climate Change Economics* says that weather is behaving with historic norms, and "the problem is that more people now live in [the path of disasters like hurricanes]." This effect of increasing population and urbanization is reflected in insurance payouts.

Dennis Prouse, government relations manager for the Insurance Bureau of Canada, says insurance payouts have been doubling every five to 10 years since the 80s. "More Canadians living in urban settings makes national disasters more expensive," he said, adding that the recent housing boom in Kelowna resulted in a $200 million dollar payout after this summer's fires. He said the increase in severe weather events is a major factor in the cost of property losses.

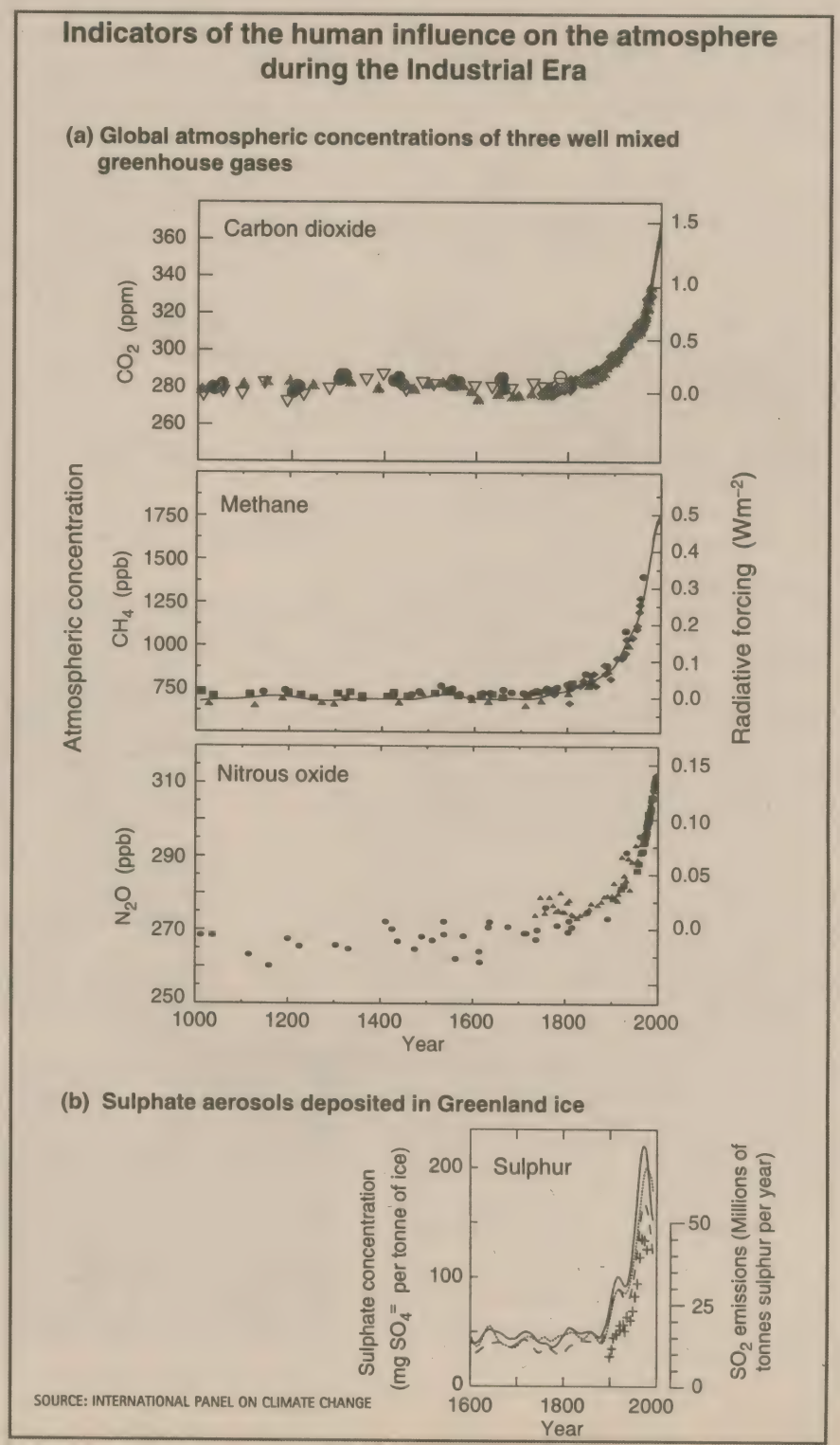
For this reason, the Insurance Bureau, among others, has been lobbying governments to fund mitigation projects. Some municipalities have heeded the call. The Winnipeg floodway, installed in 1967, avoided an enormous amount of damage when the Red River flooded in 1997, and Vancouver has installed blue saltwater fire hydrants for use in case of earthquakes. "Canadian are good at dealing with disasters," Prouse concluded, "but not so good at preparing for them."

It seems we suffer from the same limited prescience as many other developed and developing nations. Although it might be true that suddenly reducing carbon emissions will neither stop nor reverse global warming at this point, that doesn't mean that nothing needs to change.

Development of alternatives to carbon-based power sources is progressing, as we see now in the production of hybrid cars like the Toyota Prius and Ford's new hybrid SUV. This is encouraging, but it did not happen because of government legislation or any new breed of corporate ethics. These cars are nothing more than a response to consumer demand. As for a large-scale power-supply alternatives, such as solar, wind, or tidal, Van Kooten predicts that "not until energy becomes truly scarce will there be changes to the energy system … Unfortunately, a true carbon-free energy future is a nuclear future, as many scientists are now realizing. But the N-word is not very popular."

On this point the scientists' and the economists' mandates re-converge. Weaver agrees, saying that modern Candu reactors don't produce bomb-grade plutonium, nor do they run the risk of Chernobyl-style meltdowns. He adds that the nuclear power, as a short-term solution, is one of the safest mechanisms of power. "People point to hydro power, but many thousands of people have died when hydro dams have broken. Nuclear power turns a global climate problem into a local storage problem."

Although we seem to be set on a course for several centuries of warmer weather, temperatures don't have to reach the four degrees that precipitated the last ice age. Regardless of the path, whether nuclear or otherwise, it must be away from carbon-based fuels. What would our quality of life be living in an atmosphere dense with CO_2, irrespective of our GDP? And what will be the quality of life for developing nations battered by droughts, floods and hurricanes essentially of our making? Unfortunately, there appears to be enough oil to last us into the smoggy future where storms are rampant and biodiversity is mostly extinct. Alternatives need to be developed and implemented. And we have less than 100 years.


Indicators of the human influence on the atmosphere during the Industrial Era
(a) Global atmospheric concentrations of three well mixed greenhouse gases
Carbon dioxide
CO_2 (ppm)
Methane
CH_4 (ppb)
Nitrous oxide
N_2O (ppb)
Atmospheric concentration
Radiative forcing (Wm^{-2})
Year
(b) Sulphate aerosols deposited in Greenland ice
Sulphur
Sulphate concentration (mg $SO_4^=$ per tonne of ice)
SO_2 emissions (Millions of tonnes sulphur per year)
Year

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Editorial

CanWest strikes again

First it was the strict editorial control over newspapers, brought in by CanWest in the summer of 2001.

The bigwigs at media empire CanWest developed a sweeping editorial policy that enraged staff at many of the 14 major dailies purchased that summer, including the Ottawa Citizen, Edmonton Journal, and the Montreal Gazette. CanWest began distributing editorials written at the national office and requiring its major newspapers across the country to run them. Bowing to pressure, it eventually cut the number of "national" editorials to one per week.

Then, it was the censorship. Journalists whose articles contained criticism of CanWest policies were reprimanded, or—even worse—had their pieces rewritten to suit the views of the owners. Some journalists withheld their bylines; others were suspended without pay after complaining to media outlets. For a while, things calmed down. Until now.

It's common knowledge in newspaper circles that now-deceased CanWest owner Izzy Asper insisted his newspapers have a pro-Israel bias.

A businessman to the end, Asper said that newspapers should reflect the views of its owner. In Asper's case, he had the largest news empire in the country to push his opinions.

In his words: "When you own a newspaper, the inmates don't run the asylum ..." In other words, screw freedom of the press, or the judgment of editors and reporters.

Because of this bias, CanWest has now upset the world's oldest and arguably most respected news agency: Reuters.

The chain has been inappropriately inserting the world "terrorist" into wire stories, including those from Reuters and Associated Press (AP), to fit the CanWest bias.

For example, the original wire copy of a Reuters story read: "...the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which has been involved in a four-year-old revolt against Israeli occupation in Gaza and the West Bank."

In the National Post version of the story—the Post is owned by CanWest—it became: "...the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a terrorist group that has been involved in a four-year-old campaign of violence against Israel."

Words like "militant," "insurgent" and "extremist" are often changed to "terrorist," and according to Citizen editor Scott Anderson, it's Arab groups that are primarily identified as such.

The Citizen edited the word "terrorist" seven times into an AP piece about the Iraqi city of Fallujah, where U.S. forces have unsuccessfully been battling Iraqi insurgents. Reuters and AP avoid words like "terrorist" in their copy, instead wanting to report dispassionately so that the reader can judge for themselves, and rightly so.

CanWest has an ethical responsibility to provide its readers with the facts, free from the bias and slant the company's owners wish to enforce. If a story is being changed, don't leave a trusted name like Reuters on it.

Health deal questionable

It's been a boring nine months, hasn't it?

Since Paul Martin took office in January, the Liberals have led a largely inconsequential government. The party lost its credibility after the sponsorship scandal, and barely won enough seats in the June election to form a minority government.

Martin promised to rescue medicare if elected and it might have been this assurance that brought him back to the Prime Minister's Office. Now he and his Liberals have pushed through a $41 billion, 10-year deal with the provinces to end federal-provincial bickering over health care funding.

The deal itself, however, is questionable.

Quebec was given special status, the provinces have over a year to make progress on their promises to reduce wait times for patients, and health care associations are saying the disbursement of money to the provinces is highly unaccountable.

The Liberals have to stay active, or else the other parties will be all over them (see *the Martlet*'s Jack Layton profile on page four). Before the election, political pundits suggested that a minority government would push policies beneficial to Canadians through the system faster because of pressure from all sides.

Because every party pushed health care in its election platform, the Liberals rushed through this unaccountable health care deal—a deal that may fall flat in a few years—in order to avoid a vote of no confidence in the future. They need the support of the public and the opposition, and this is just a quick fix to the problem.

Really, would these health care promises have been addressed so quickly if the Liberals were in a majority position? Probably not.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
edit@martlet.ca

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"The changes on the new Star Wars DVDs are great! They digitally replaced Alec Guiness with Ewan McGregor, and in the cantina scene Greedo is so intimidated by Han that he shoots himself!"

Letters

WCWC clarifies position

In the piece published by Ingmar Lee and Krista Roessingh about the Cathedral Grove tree-sit protests two issues ago, there was an incorrect statement which read "the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Sierra Club have rejected this kind of protest."

In fact, the WCWC, while itself working within the law, has consistently taken a position in favour of non-violent civil disobedience protests in B.C., whether in Clayoquot Sound, the Elaho Valley, Great Bear Rainforest, Slocan Valley, Walbran Valley, Gwaii Haanas or Cathedral Grove. However, our own efforts focus on the mass education and mobilization (rallies, letters, petitions, volunteering) of the greater B.C. public, whether students, seniors or middle-aged parents, to exert the forceful democratic pressure on politicians that ultimately results in new legislation or changes in policies.

Civil disobedience is an important tactic that helps generate public attention and keeps trees standing while the political pressure kicks in. To this end, the WCWC's mid-Island chapter in Qualicum Beach has distributed 200,000 educational newspapers, organized public meetings and slideshows, and garnered significant news attention on the issue for years. To find out more, visit www.wildernesscommittee.org

Sarah Pawliuk, Glenys Verhulst, and Graeme Verhulst
WCWC UVic Club

Science and Engineering students should be mad!

Parking lot #1 will be a nightmare this term, thanks to a stupid administration decision to reduce the number of parking spots in this lot and lot A by a whopping 33 per cent.

Here are the facts: Lot 1, prior to adding the barricades and new residences, had 674 general spots and 76 reserved spots, with a 98.8 per cent usage of the general spots. Lot A (Engineering) had 39 reserved spots.

Lot A has been permanently closed, and now that the residences are built, some 149 spots of lot 1 are now behind the barricades for exclusive use by the residence students.

Thus before, there were 674 general and 115 reserved, equal to 789 spots in Lots A and 1 combined. Now there are 425 general spots and 100 reserved spots, equal to 525 total, some 264 spots less, 33 per cent less total and 37 per cent less of the general spots.

Sure the residences need an unloading area, but the long-term parking could have been on the Sinclair Road side, not on the Ring Side. Now many Science and Engineering students will be hiking from behind the gym, the stadium, the Fine Arts building or wherever.

Sure, it would be nice if students cycled or took the bus, but lets get real; people in Victoria use cars—in my view it's pretty dumb to ignore this—it is just going to make the whole exercise in the mornings more frustrating.

If you agree, write or e-mail Jack Falk, VP administration (falk@uvic.ca) and tell him we need more parking spots on this side of campus.

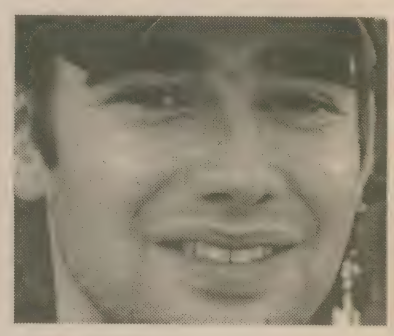
Reg Mitchell
Professor, Chemistry

On the spot

What annoys you about UVic?

Answers and photos compiled by Tim Hanson

Anni Atherton, 3rd Year Music
"The lack of love for the music school."



Blair Roycroft, 3rd Year Psych.
"I'm in three 3rd year classes and not one of them has less than 80 students. And those damn rabbits!"

Chelsea Walton, 3rd Year Music,
"The prentious student politics."

Frank T., 4th Year Philosophy
"The bouncers at Felicitas."

Neal Donegani, Continuing Studies
"There's no skateboard park"

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The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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When Canadas collide

by Bess Winter K

I am a transfer student here at UVic. Last year at this time I was settling in to life at Mount Allison University, size 2,500 students, in the town of Sackville, New Brunswick.

A number of people have asked me whether there are differences between East Coast and West Coast life besides the obvious geographical location and climate. My automatic response is always something along the lines of "Oh, yes. Great differences. Can't compare the two." This response is usually followed by a "Why?" at which point I find an excuse to sneak off to the bathroom.

It's difficult to articulate the differences between east and west because the shift from one coast to another has left me feeling like I've just travelled through what Stephen Hawking would invariably describe as a wormhole, and I have been turned completely inside-out in the process. Sure, there are basic surface differences between the two places. Those in warmer western regions such as Victoria are possessed of an innate fear of the snowflake while easterners defiantly tug on their long johns, braid their Viking-like beards and hack labyrinthine tunnel systems into six-foot drifts. The East Coast is highly religious (Sackville alone has five churches) while the West Coast is relatively godless. Mention the word "surf" here and everyone rushes down to the beach, whereas on the East Coast, people wonder how your reference to a feudal servant fits into the conversation at hand.

The real difference between the East and West Coasts, however, does not lie in fibs and caricatures. It's in the basic underlying feeling of the places and the people. Students at Mount Allison are in a perpetual state of ennui. They express a certain resignation to the fact that they are attending a bite-sized school in a town whose biggest claim to fame is that it hasn't changed since 1950. But they love their ennui. At Mount A, revelling in the lack of opportunity that Sackville provides automatically establishes one as cool.

I loved my ennui. I sat in Mel's Tearoom, the old soda fountain, and munched, smirking, on my fried egg sandwich. My friends and I would peruse the second-hand clothing shop, find each other the ugliest ensembles we could and wear them to class the next day. Our cynicism defined us. I came to UVic naïvely expecting to encounter the same.

There was nary a cynic to be found. UVic does not possess the same sense of irony as Mount Allison, just as the West Coast doesn't share the East's self-deprecating humour. Everyone here seems relatively satisfied with his or her own life, or at least has the resources to be. Even the UVic campus gives off the sense that it's fulfilled, being circular, whereas Mount A's campus stretches itself out over a long rectangular park, at the end of which ominously lies a graveyard. Many people at UVic can honestly say that they are getting everything they need. At Mount A, most would say this as a joke. I'm not used to this. It feels strange.

This isn't to say that one school or coast is better than the other. I love the ominous graveyard and fried egg sandwiches. I also love warm climates and have absolutely nothing against hippies. And I'm trying, with repeated viewings of The Big Lebowski, to become more satisfied and laid-back. No matter how hard I try, however, a part of me is still firmly ensconced in the East Coast way of life. It's the part that encourages me to ride my bike but not too fast lest I get hit by a Volkswagen bus, tells me to write my little poems but try to take up a secure fall-back career like plumbing, and reminds me that in a school of 20,000 happy, satisfied people, there's even more need for a cynic.

Who is B.C. Ferries?

by Jen King

First it was the fries and gravy. Most islanders can recall the day they shuffled along to discover White Spot implanted in their B.C. Ferries cafeteria. For many, a change in ferry food seemed like the day pigs flew. However, as the lore of hollandaise sauce and cardboard ferry kids' packs subsides, the new mythology surrounding those hours at sea is increasingly disturbing. Over four decades since the maiden voyage of the British Columbia Ferry Authority, the public needs to take precautions in becoming acquainted with the new persona of their ferry system.

A drole announcer evoking 1950s style hospitality sighs and greets a family consisting of a mom, dad and two-and-a-half kids if you count the dog as they enter the Swartz Bay terminal. He describes amenities of the newly renovated complex, eliciting "ooohs" and "aaahs" from the enraptured travellers.

According to advertising, all are in love with the Ferry Corporation.

A young couple surfing the B.C. Ferries website playfully argue over whether to visit Salt Spring Island or the Sunshine Coast. Suddenly, an authoritative gentleman appears out of nowhere and murmurs suggestions on where to point their mouse, then poof, he is gone. Elsewhere in the province, having arrived at their destination, an idyllic blonde, blue-eyed family strolls along the shoreline, hair rippling, but khakis and white polo-shirts smooth.

Yes, there are new faux-leather seats and finally an espresso bar at Swartz Bay. However, their primary function is little more than a distraction from the increased fare rates and labour disputes, which have arisen since the new British Columbia Ferry Services Incorporated took over on April 2 of last year, thanks to the Coastal Ferry Act. In addition to launching a new radio and ad campaign, the new legislation has brought about some disturbing changes to the way the transportation system runs. Most significantly, it has taken public voice and control out of the picture.

The B.C. government is now the single shareholder of the B.C. Ferry Authority—a corporation that runs B.C. Ferry Services Inc. (B.C. Ferries). The act also created the B.C. Ferry Commission, intended as a regulatory body for the financial aspects of services and fares. However, cocooned as a corporation, the ferry system is not subject to the authority or questioning of the B.C. public, except for their participation in electing the provincial government. Voters must rely on the word of their representatives and these new agencies' boards of directors rather than use normal channels, such as the auditor general and the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to outlining exemption from sections of the labour code, the Coastal Ferry Act thoughtfully provides a clear picture of an even more inscrutable version of B.C. Ferries as a private company.

Beyond essential service and labour debates, vessel contracts and the many worries of fish-stick meals, the ferry system in British Columbia is entering a truly upsetting "new era," as the current government has ironically described its latest set of ministry privatizations. It is clear that the province must seek new directions to encourage economic growth, such as drawing in the tourists to the breathtaking 22-hour cruise that is the Queen of the North.

One of the act's guiding policies for the Ferry Commission, however, is the development of "a commercial approach to ferry service delivery," a deep flaw within the unaccountable structure that refuses to acknowledge that "coastal ferry services are an extension of the highway system," as stated in the current Ministry of Transportation Service Plan. Besides those unions and communities already vocal, the general public needs to demand a ferry system accountable to its constituency. It is their travel, their life, that is so drastically affected.

Americans—We just need a little guidance

by Colleen Sanders

I am writing in response to Sarah Towle's article "Those crazy, crazy tourists" which appeared in the Sept. 9 issue of the Martlet.

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, a city with a population comparable to that of Victoria, made up of red-blooded Americans who, as generalized by Towle, are pathetically clueless when it comes to even their nearest neighbouring country. Unfortunately for me, I fit her impression of the clueless tourist before I moved here to attend UVic.

The article made tangible for me a general attitude that I am aware the rest of the world holds against Americans. Since I had not run into any resentment toward my American stature from other students, Towle's article presented me with an opportunity to say something that needs to be said.

I am writing to propose an explanation as to why things are the way they seem—why Canadians think Americans are obliviously ignorant and why that assertion holds some truth.

It's a touchy subject. In the process of writing this article, I found myself baiting reactions out of my American friends and family by proposing the topic of American ignorance. Most retorted with an initial sting of indignation, then reluctantly their egos ebbed to make way for reason.

The coyote does not dabble in the affairs of the rabbit outside of the knowledge it needs to hunt them, and so it is with foreign affairs. With America near the top of the political food chain, it is rare within the course of a day that the need arises to immerse oneself with the dealings of outside countries.

We've got our own issues, too.

I am not loftily imparting an opinion that America outshines any nation. But even Towle says "the U.S. media dominat[es] so many aspects of world life," giving a Canadian's acknowledgement that U.S. hands (fat and dirty as they may appear) have gotten a grip on everything in their reach.

You have to understand that it's a different environment down there. We were never forced to memorize your provinces, learn about your government or study your culture in school. Could it be that Canadians naturally generate a more aware, worldly society? I can't remember the last time I heard, saw or read about Canada in the news at home. To America, if you aren't a resource for profit, there's just no interest.

I could go on about the average American, but it would still never speak for my entire native country. It might not even accurately represent Alex from Montana who lives two doors down from me. Reciprocally, I'm sure (I mean, I hope) that there are some Canadians out there who, through acquaintance or blind faith, still give Americans an ounce of credit as reasonable people. We are not all so farcically detached from the rest of the world as to not be taken seriously.

I came to UVic with a burning desire to interact with new people who have refreshing attitudes. Now I see my naïveté. Apparently, people are pretty much the same no matter where you find them. Therefore, the American tourist's ignorance plays not upon their actual native soil, but their society. It's not like America's water has stupid juice in it. All tourists aren't American, like all Americans (whether they travel or not) aren't tourists. Knowledge of culture isn't a qualification for tourism.

Anyway, the conclusion that American tourists (as opposed to, say, European) lack fundamental awareness of other countries, even those they visit, is a broad generalization based on a correlation of experiences. The stereotypical ignorant tourist sucks, but continuing the cycle of ignorance with a broad American stereotype allows no justice for criticism.

I know what RCMP stands for, I know who Paul Martin is and where he stands on some of the issues here. I can use your money. I can use your measurement scales. Other subtleties are coming in daily, as they only can through direct contact with your culture. I just don't think Americans (or any collective stereotype) ought to be lumped into a category of close-minded, self-concerned morons who aren't open to other cultures. We just need a little guidance, and how about some patience to boot, eh?

Sharp strips down music

by Annie Meikle

Matt Sharp is a busy man. The former Weezer bassist and Rentals frontman has been packing up his Los Angeles home, and on Monday, he embarked on a North American tour that will bring him to Victoria this weekend.

Accompanied by The Goldenboys, an alt-country trio from California, Sharp will be wooing audiences with songs from the self-titled album he released last May.

The collection of downbeat, ambient songs reflects Sharp's changed style. In-your-face, loud rants and dance-in-your-pants Weezer numbers have been replaced by Sharp's reflective alt-country, Wilco-esque sound.

Sharp's style changed gradually. Two years ago, he made the decision to temporarily leave the music scene.

"I wanted to find a place to start over and disconnect for a while," he explains. The impetus for the hiatus came as he gradually realized he was more inspired by what he was listening to than by what he was playing. Artists like Leonard Cohen, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson gave Sharp the inspiration to reflect on his own music.

"I listened to many individual singers who sounded like they were just sitting in the room and talking to you, artists who weren't sitting on a huge pile of production," he says.

Sharp headed to rural Tennessee, which was far away enough for him to "cut all ties with the record industry" and "disconnect for a while." Rentals bandmate Josh Hager accompanied Sharp. Hager played the piano, helped record the album and created the ambient, hollow background music that permeates each song.

Surprisingly, the duo was not sure what would happen stylistically when they landed in Tennessee. In the end, Sharp's desire to connect with the listener in a simple and direct manner won out.

"I didn't want a really polished sound," he claims. "I planned to make either a stripped-down, spastic punk record or something like the final product, which seemed like the more honest approach."

The resulting album is a product of inner reflection. Sharp's soothing voice croons directly at the listener as his melancholy, hazy songs unfold. Strummed acoustic guitar and eerie piano and organ notes fill the songs. The pieces explore brief moments, ideas and poignant memories. They also circle self-questioning themes like doubting the worth of one's existence.

Luckily, the album's dreamy mood and Sharp's calm tone ease the heavy subject matter. Questions like "Did all those dreams really make you happy?" are calmly absorbed before they create overwhelming anxiety for the listener.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Matt Sharp has moved away from the indie-fuzz rock of previous bands Weezer and The Rentals.

Unlike Sharp's lyrics, his future goals are simple. He wants people to enjoy his music so he can continue to make records and keep touring. The subject of being on the road with The Goldenboys adds an excited edge to Sharp's voice. Sharp and The Goldenboys perform together to create a collective set and he says he prefers this flexible set-up to the more traditional opening-and-closing band routine.

"With Weezer, I was always playing a role and later with The Rentals I was carrying the show."

Sharp now finds that he has a balance. "I can still get up and say something if I want," he said, but he can also sit back for some songs and let others lead.

You can also sit back for some songs when Matt Sharp and The Goldenboys appear at Logan's Pub on Sept. 25. Tickets are $12.

Look ... we're reviewing a dictionary

The Canadian Oxford Dictionary
Oxford Press

by Bryna Hallam

I have a confession: I am a dictionary junkie—a word nerd, if you will. It all started when I bought my first dictionary back in first year. I now own a number of different ones, including my current favourite—a slang dictionary.

They all have the essentials, of course: plenty of words, accurate spellings and definitions, easy-to-follow pronunciation guides. But what is it that separates the good from the merely average?

The Canadian Oxford Dictionary (the official dictionary of the Canadian Press, it proudly informs us) has the essentials. It also has a nifty guide to other alphabets (Arabic, Greek and Russian) and handy finger tabs for each of the letters. But the reason I like it has more to do with its Canadian side.

After all, what other dictionary is going to have entries on Molson and Labatt, not to mention one for Molson muscle? Where else can you turn to find out what exactly Canadian Tire money is? (Note to the editor: where's the entry on Tim Hortons?)

Canadiana aside, according to the publisher, there are 2,200 "uniquely Canadian" phrases and 500 words unique to particular regions of the country. This appears to be a well-researched guide to Canadian English.

In writing this dictionary, a team of five lexicographers read over 8,000 different Canadian publications, including books, newspapers and even Canadian Tire catalogues, all to ensure that the words of our day-to-day lives were recorded.

In addition, the dictionary has both preferred Canadian spellings (colour, not color) and pronunciations; however, it does include other spellings as well. The pronunciation guide is on every page of the book, which makes it easy to figure out what all the symbols mean. It follows a slightly modified version of the International Phonetic Alphabet and even indicates Canadian Raising (that's the reason other people make us say "out and about in a boat"), which makes the linguist in me happy.

Not every word has its pronunciation given. In general, the forward of the book says that the pronunciation is given only for the first entry that contains that word. It appears, however, that they are assuming we can figure some words out on our own, due to their familiarity. As a result, although it is comprehensive, this is not the dictionary for anyone learning English.

You may also notice that some of your favourite words are missing, although "weapons of mass destruction" can be found here, if not in Iraq. This is due to the fact that languages change much more quickly than dictionaries do, and, while unfortunate, is unavoidable.

Another point to consider is the size of the book. It is definitely a desk reference. The 1,830 pages and hard cover guarantee you won't want to be packing it around in your bag.

And, of course, there is the price. At $59.99, this is not a cheap book, though it isn't the most expensive dictionary out there either. If you want a thorough guide to Canadian English, and have the money to spend, definitely get it. On the other hand, there are a lot of decent paperback dictionaries that will suffice out there too.

As for me, this dictionary will replace my old paperback one as my main reference.

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What a schmuck

Steriogram
Schmack
Capitol

by David Psutka

So you're a record producer in the early 90s and hip hop is the emerging musical genre of choice for young people. You know you're sitting on a veritable gold mine if you can find a way to neuter hip hop, give it a glossy, less-hostile facade and bring it to the MTV mainstream.

Then the epiphany, "Let's get white kids to sing it!" So you merge rap with rock and roll, a genre already proven to be commercially viable. Tactfully, you recruit credulous teenagers with Wu-Tang CDs in their collection to bring your million-dollar idea to the masses, thus becoming the mainstream music fan's "hard/alternative rock" option. Hence the inevitable birth of rap-rock, but I digress …

So, the land of the long, grey cloud gives us Steriogram, the trans-Pacific answer to the latest punk-rap craze. The first single from *Schmack*—"Walkie Talkie Man"—has received a fair amount of radio play and was used on some beer commercial, I think.

Schmack is a collection of mediocre songs. The inane lyrics, if you care to listen to them, will disappoint. The vocals are somewhere between Fred Durst and Andy Dick. The guitar riffs are dull. The turntables are unoriginal cheese and the songs are repetitive and homogenous.

Putting the first track on repeat will provide roughly the same satisfaction as playing the album the whole way through—as would holding a power tool up to your ear for 50 minutes, for that matter.

Steriogram can be included among the scores of bands to egregiously confuse punk-rock sensibilities. The punk-rock posturing in *Schmack* is cliché to the point of ridiculous. Image-wise, Steriogram also fails. The band photos in the CD leaflet conjure memories of that commercial with the dancing Pop-Tart. The trend in music seems to be that whenever something new and successful comes along, you are immediately inundated with a swarm of cheap, grab-at-the-pot knock-offs. Steriogram seems a good fit for this group. *Schmack* gives us nothing new or interesting. Boo Steriogram.

Like yesterday, but today

by Sacha Narine

PROVIDED PHOTO

Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law use nostalgia to fight giant robots. Or something like that.

Ever been punched in the face? Polly Perkins has.

The delightful Ms. Perkins, played by Gwyneth Paltrow, joins Lois Lane and Vickie Vale in the filmic pantheon of crafty female reporters with alliterative names. Paltrow, looking more beautiful than Screen Actor's Guild regulations allow, radiates supernatural glamour as Joe "Sky Captain" Sullivan's old flame and hyper-feminine counterpart. Too bad she gets smacked.

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow abounds with broad, recognizable characters—the dashing hero, the science whiz, the evil genius and the aforementioned plucky reporter. If you want a general idea of the film's tone, listen to its intentionally overwrought score, a musical bitch-slap from the gauntleted hand of heroic pomp.

Here's the big surprise: this film is fantastic. First-time director Kerry Conran has unleashed a work of such visual exuberance, dramatic innocence and nostalgic retrospection that I wonder if perhaps it is too much for some viewers to bear. I expect a number of moviegoers to laugh continually throughout the film, assuming that it is an ironic parody of older films, comic books, pulp fiction or radio programs from the 1930s.

Sky Captain draws on all those sources without a hint of mockery or condescension. For Kerry Conran, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, this is not a joke. The film contains humour, but not at its own expense. Its humour lies in simple gags, a running joke about a camera, and we are more inclined to laugh—to lower our defences—because the film is consistently joyous, surreal and entertaining.

Tremulous moments of weakness crop up around the halfway mark, but *Sky Captain* is an uphill slope, rising closer and closer to greatness as the film moves toward a lighthearted and spectacular conclusion. Conran's entire film relies on computer-generated images (CGI), and uses the technology in wonderful new ways (to paint wonderful old imagery). As a general rule, I distrust CGI backdrops until I know why they needed to be concocted on a computer rather than built on a soundstage or shot on location. In this case, I wouldn't (and couldn't) have it any other way. Your eyes will thank you for seeing this movie.

Second question: do you like *Star Wars*? Then you have no excuse for missing *Sky Captain*. The two franchises share aspects of exaggeration, fantasy, formula and characterization. Bai Ling's stone-silent, black-cloaked assassin bears a staggering resemblance to Ray Park's nearly silent, black-cloaked Darth Maul, the acrobatic Dark Jedi from *Episode One: The Phantom Menace*. Both franchises hold adventure and excitement paramount, and *Sky Captain*, arguably, does a better job of making you smile than either of the last two *Star Wars* films. I mean, who the fuck thought the "Galactic Senate" was exciting?

Stamped with a G-rating, *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* is tailor-made for the very young and the very old. But, for the sake of argument, let's do a little math. Say you've got an inner child who's about five, and an inner old crank who's about 75. Add those ages together and divide by two for a mean emotional age of 40. Introduce an experimental error (just for giggles) of plus or minus 39.99, and you've gone and proven that people of all ages will enjoy *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*. I checked my results against those obtained by famed mathematician John Forbes Nash and, sure enough, I nailed it. Always was good with numbers.

Want to know about the story? Too friggin' bad. Just see the movie, admire its effortless reawakening of classic formulae, and dig on the CGI robots tramping around New York City. In the world of tomorrow, movies are all this fun.

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Death rays and nicotine super-strength

Ghost World scribe back with new graphic novel

by Steven Masuch

Daniel Clowes has come back strong with his latest graphic novel *Eightball #23: The Death Ray.*

It follows a teenager named Andy and his only friend, Louie. Andy discovers that his father treated him with an experimental hormone when he was young, and he can now become super strong by smoking because nicotine activates the hormone. Andy's father also invented a death ray, a gun that vaporizes anything it shoots.

Empowered by Andy's new abilities, he and Louie go out to try and fight crime like superheroes. But their own moral ambiguity and repressed anger quickly twist their intentions around, and the death ray becomes a weapon worse than they first imagined.

This story is published as the latest issue of *Eightball,* Clowes' long-running comic book series. However, this issue is not a collection of short comics and serial strips like the others. Rather, it's one whole story broken up into sections, none more than two pages long.

Clowes has refined his artistic technique for this issue. While the style is still similar to a mix of Archie pulp comics and old EC horror stories, it looks cleaner and less crowded.

Colour is used to give us perspective into different parts of the story, and the titles of each section ("Andy's World," or "Louie at Home") frame the story with an innocent aura that contrasts with the gritty plot events.

A common theme throughout Clowes' work is that his characters always search for their underlying purpose and inevitably change through the process. Andy follows this same path, and despite his superhuman abilities, he never comes off as anything more than a teenager given the power he'd always wanted.

This humanity in Andy is one of the comic's greatest strengths. Whether you empathize with his actions or find them reprehensible, you can always understand the reasons behind them. You could imagine somebody you know turning out like Andy under that pressure. You might even see a bit of yourself in him.

Before *Eightball #23,* Clowes' last project was *David Boring,* about a lonely, young man trying to find love. He also wrote the graphic novels *Ghost World,* which was adapted into a movie starring Thora Birch and Steve Buscemi, and *Like a Velvet Glove Cast in Iron,* a surreal journey through an imagined and paranoid dark side of America.

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Underappreciated art can be found in all corners of campus, including this piece in the basement of the McPherson Library.

ART ON CAMPUS

A first look at hidden art

by Adam Jones

UVic is home to much oft-ignored artwork by first-class Canadian artists. Hidden in corridors and basements, this art can be found in corners of our campus.

In the microforms room in the basement of the McPherson Library (turn left at the far wall), is "Distance (Nana Mountains)," a work by Myfawny Pavelic, one of Canada's foremost portrait painters.

Pavelic is best known for her series of portraits of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. This is a portrait of a grandmother, touching on themes of memory, relationships and death.

The eye is immediately inclined to read the portrait in an unconventional movement from right to left, drawn by the strong green vertical line that traces Nana's profile. Her face, done in charcoal, seems to emerge from the painting, as if a black-and-white bust was surfacing from underwater. The visual draw of the green line brings us right into Nana's features, especially the accented shading around the eyes. Our gaze then shoots left along the mountain's horizontal lines, as if seeing them from Nana's own perspective. She is doubtlessly looking at the distant mountains, as the fading light of the sunset provides a glint on her glasses.

The mountains, done largely in pale purple with some green linked to the outline of her face, gives an initial impression of flatness, as if seeing the mountains from a distance, one of the many distances alluded to in the title. The hazy Rothko-esque mountain lines provide an intellectual puzzle of depth. Rather than visual depth itself, we are left wondering which horizon line is closest to us.

This notion of distance forces us to contemplate the painter and her relationship with the subject. A "nana" is grandmotherly and the word evokes an idea of tenderness, gives us a feeling of closeness between the artist and the subject.

Her face and the mountains are linked in the title and through the merging effect of montage, as her face is the highest peak of the very mountain range she is observing. It is here the idea of Nana as an image, or as memory, comes into play. Against the coloured "reality" of mountain and sky, Nana is portrayed in black and white—she is unreal. The choice in the use of colour implies that Nana is being conjured up before us by the artist; the lack of explicit detail in the face makes her seem drawn from memory, rather than sitting in the artist's studio.

Nana is shown in charcoal, taken out of the larger world and into the black-and-white shades of human mortality. Though Nana might be portrayed in such visually mortal terms, there are several reasons to believe that she is still alive when the work was created. Her face, although precise in its impression is not precise in its detail—her features and body are gradually fading away just like the nearly completed sunset she herself is watching. The obvious metaphor for death is caught in the act of Nana contemplating her own mortality; her light, like that of the sun, is slowly but surely fading away. The outline of her face links her to life, and the green used is a symbol of life itself. The painting demands us to conceive not only our own mortality, but also that of our friends and relatives.

There's no need to go a museum because there's great art right here on campus. You can take my word for it, or head downstairs to the McPherson microforms room and see for yourself.

'Stella! Stella! Stellllla!' and other classic lines

by Megan Stewart

For fading southern dame Blanche DuBois, sex and desire are synonymous with death and decay.

She meets all four at Elysian Fields, which is both the New Orleans home of her married younger sister Stella and the Greek mythological land of the dead.

Blanche lives in the lines of Tennessee Williams' 1947 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, A Streetcar Named Desire. Until Oct. 30, Streetcar is showing Wednesday to Saturday at the Chemainus Theatre, just north of Duncan.

The trip up-Island to catch the gritty, realist American tragedy is worth the cost, considering productions of the controversial masterpiece make the stage only intermittently.

As a playwright, Williams regularly evoked a discomforted rise out of his audience, asking spectators to face the realities of a changing, dystopic, post-war nation through the violence, passion and turmoil he created for stage.

Blanche's tragic character is a theatrical and literary classic, and actresses pine to play the role of the charming and ruined Mississippi belle. In the Chemainus production, acclaimed Canadian actress Gina Chiarelli brings the coquettish role to life with more flirtatious, schoolgirl shrill than self-righteous, sensual composure.

In later scenes, however, Chiarelli finds her mark, portraying Blanche as a disillusioned, helpless and fallen high-society belle who finds herself trapped in a brutish, upwardly mobile America.

In uttering her opening lines of Streetcar, Blanche, dressed in limp taffeta and dulling rhinestones, sets the tone for the following story and her own denouement:

"They told me to take a streetcar named Desire," she says, her voice rising, "and transfer to one called Cemeteries, and ride six blocks and get off at Elysian Fields!"

Like her passage on public city railway cars, Blanche's social and cultural fall from grace is jumpstarted by sexual promiscuity and desire. Set in the late 40s, the aging Blanche travels to a sweaty, working-class quarter of New Orleans from her small-town home. There she had lost the family plantation, as well as her job as an English teacher and was most recently working at an ill-reputed inn, turning tricks for sailors and regular callers.

She turns up on the doorstep of her pregnant younger sister Stella (played by Lucia Frangione) and brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski (Craig Erickson). Stanley and Blanche square off throughout her stay, generating the main source of physical and figurative conflict. For his 1951 film portrayal of the brooding and simian Stanley, Marlon Brando landed an Oscar nomination and was applauded for developing techniques applied to modern method acting.

Director Jeremy Tow holds true to traditional subtleties including a two-tiered set and appropriate use of two bare lightbulbs. Original music composed by Tobin Stokes adds flare and emphasis to key scenes.

Tickets range from $20 to $49. Visit www.ChemainusTheatreFestival.ca for more information.

PROVIDED PHOTO

It may be up Island, but seeing *Streetcar* is worth the trip.

Seven hours of music in the SUB

Wide Mouth Mason, Sweatshop Union playing

by Ford Walker

On Saturday Sept. 25, the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) is opening up the entire Student Union Building (SUB) to its annual house party.

While this event has always been a smashing success, this year's lineup of bands will prove to make it stand out among all the others. Headliners Wide Mouth Mason and Sweatshop Union prove that the UVSS can pull out big names when it needs to. Both are internationally acclaimed Canadian bands that are innovative in their forms of music.

But don't let these big names lure you into thinking that the locals aren't going to be represened. Political hip-hoppers Better Rhetoric, Vancouver's soulful Kia Kadiri and Steamer's Sunday night jam-band Velvet and Kuba will all be taking the stage. And this is only the tip of the iceberg. There are also four DJs spinning from open to close, including international sensation DJ Scuit, and a list of other local acts will be announced at the show. The planning commission for this party did a top-notch job of representing all forms of 'college' music. We've got hip-hop, jam/funk, folk and electronica. In other words, if you can't find a band here to spark your interest, you obviously are not looking hard enough.

Wide Mouth Mason is a big enough draw that they are sure to get a heads-up from the Island. They've played almost every past SUB party and their return to the lineup will cause no surprise to Victorians. Of course, they wouldn't be able to keep touring if they didn't have such a distinctive style and ability to reinvent themselves time and time again. They've built up quite a following on Vancouver Island, so do not be surprised to see the Michele Pujol room packed to capacity on Saturday night. They've also been in the studio recently and will be playing music most people haven't heard yet in Victoria.

Picking up from last year, political hip-hoppers Sweatshop Union are sure to put on a fabulous show once again. Their lyrics are infused with issues that will make you think, but their phat beats will probably just make you want to dance. Anything but your same old rap group, the Union works to publish positive lyrics and fails to fall into that "bustin' a cap" stereotype that has literally killed popular rap.

If Sweatshop Union isn't enough to whet your appetite for a good, hip-hoppin' time, then you should definitely check out locals Better Rhetoric. Two members attend UVic right now, and their bass player just graduated. This means they have their fingers on the pulse of the campus and know how to cater to the crowd.

"Even though we deal with some serious topics," said singer Ben Johnson, "we try to keep it fun. Our original plan was half political, half party."

Though the ticket prices are a bit steep ($20 in advance or $25 at the door), it's sure to be worth it. Doors open at 9 p.m., the first band starts at 9:30 p.m., and the party doesn't stop until 4 a.m. Be sure to get there early, though, as the lineup has always been huge.

EATING DISORDERS STUDY NEEDS PARTICIPANTS

The University Health Network, Toronto General Hospital is taking part in an international multi-center study of genetics and anorexia nervosa. We are looking for people who have or have had anorexia nervosa and who also have another family member - sister, brother, cousin, aunt, etc. with anorexia nervosa (no mother/child pairs or identical twins).
All participants must be 16 years old and both must be willing to take part in the study. The study involves assessments, questionnaires, and a small blood draw for each participant. No travelling is required, everything can be done where you live. Participants will be compensated for out of pocket expenses.
Find out if your family qualifies,
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The eternal yoga is no passing fad

by Emma Kendall

LARISSA MATWIJIW PHOTO

UVic students practise yoga through Rec Plus.

Yoga. Googling the word yields over five million hits. At the local Chapters, there are seven monthly publications devoted solely to yoga. The UVic bookstore sells a book called *Doga* in which a New York-based yoga instructor has captured different dog breeds in flashy photos demonstrating the canine version of various poses, the book spurred no doubt by the "downward-facing dog" pose, a yoga staple. But is yoga more than simply the latest technique guaranteed to give you that healthy appearance in the glossy photos?

Yoga is no passing fad. The Indian philosopher and grammarian Patanjali developed the practice around 300 BC. His main work, the Yoga Sutras, describes a method used to train the mind with the eventual goal of achieving oneness. The word "yoga" actually means "union" or "yoking," referring to the yoking of the body and mind or to the union of the individual with the supreme. An entire system of breathing exercises and postures helps to achieve this ultimate goal of freedom and union, called *moksha* in Sanskrit, the language used by spiritual teachers in India.

In another description of yoga, the late celebrated yoga teacher Swami Sivananda compares the mind to a body of water: "When the surface of a lake is still, one can see to the bottom very clearly. This is impossible when the surface is agitated by waves. In the same way, when the mind is still, with no thoughts or desires, you can see the 'self.' This is called 'yoga.'"

Visits to local studios prove that this perennial philosophy persists as yoga evolves over the millennia. In Victoria, yoga patrons can choose from a range of classes, from restorative, with an emphasis on ease and relaxation, to Ashtanga, a form of meditation with vigourous movements.

"I would recommend visiting a few different yoga schools to try a drop-in class. That way you can see if you like the style of yoga taught and also the teacher," says Jess Freedman, director of Moksana Yoga centre in Fan Tan Alley. "Since there are many different approaches to yoga, there is a style for everyone."

Not only are classes provided for a variety of levels, but women's, men's and queer-specific yoga are also offered at studios around town. Classes share a common focus on the intrinsic value of listening to the body and working with the breath. The special attention given to respiration—a proper technique is said to help improve the mind's concentration—is what differentiates yoga from other exercises in the western tradition. A good studio creates an atmosphere that reflects the yogic philosophy, conducive to relaxation and contemplation.

At Moksana, the instructor's words help guide both the physical and mental aspects of the practice. "Where can you invite space? Where can you invite breath?" asks Clare Mullen, one of the instructors. She asks for an "edge," but no discomfort, on the cusp of engagement and surrender. This is a practice, a philosophy and an approach to life that can be carried over into other areas.

"It's not a competition, you're just here for yourself," the teacher reminds as the class extends into a difficult pose. "Let the attitude of openness transfer not only to your vertebrae but to your heart and mind as well."

Yoga benefits all practitioners through a more conscious self-awareness. Ambitious youth, frequently overwhelmed by life's innumerable pressures and choices, often lose a healthy self-image as they strive to be recognized, to be validated. Yoga practice is a reminder to soften the mind's attitude.

Health, too often compromised from lack of movement coupled with the hectic pace of contemporary life, can be restored through the dynamism of daily yoga. Such physical ailments as indigestion, PMS, headaches and high blood pressure can be treated. Long-term advantages are also numerous. Studies have shown that people have experienced improvements in osteoporosis, asthma, allergies and diabetes while practicing yoga. Most people associate yoga with flexibility, but it is also enormously strengthening and helps improve bone density. Many poses require a combination of strength, balance and flexibility, all of which improve performance in other sports. In the psychological realm, yoga is preached as therapy for depression, anxiety, stress-related disorders and Attention Deficit Disorder.

The yoga class finishes with a humble uttering of "Namaste" exchanged between attendees and teacher. This word, said while pressing hands in prayer position in front of the chest, means "may the light in me salute the light in you."

"You are your own best teacher," the instructor reminds the students.

Freedman emphasizes the transformative nature of yoga, both at the personal level and beyond. "I believe that it is through the practices of yoga, namely greater physical and mental awareness and compassion, that we can begin to change our world from the inside out," she says.

Yoga's roots are often forgotten as new products take the limelight. Everything from mat bags to mat cleaner to yoga CDs are pushed as necessary accessories for the modern yogi. However, some havens remind us that all that is really necessary to practise yoga is a dedication of time and focus. With those in place, it is possible to smooth out the waves and look into the lake.

Native Students Union

O'Siem Na Si'aya

Native Students Union would like to acknowledge **Gordon de Frane** for his hard work and dedication to NSU. Gordon has served as a NSU Council Member as well as working in a workstudy position. Native Student Union Council and members raise their hands in respect and thanks to Gordon de Frane. His contribution to NSU and the university community is well appreciated.

Hay c qa Siem,
Native Students Union Council

UVic lands new athletics director

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

The University of Victoria has a new director of athletics and recreation.

Clint Hamilton, who is wrapping up his stay at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) as athletic director of the Varsity Reds, is taking over the position in January of 2005.

Hamilton isn't new to UVic, though, having earned a masters of education degree in physical education at the university in 1992. An assistant coach to the men's basketball team in 1991-1992 and head coach of the junior varsity team in 1990-1991, he also played on the 1983 CIAU National Champion UVic team.

"Having been a member of the Vikes program as both an athlete and a coach, there's a great deal of appeal for me to return to a school that helped me provide a foundation for my professional career," he explained in an interview with the Martlet. "I left there in 1992, but there's still a strong connection and comfort level for me."

It was in 1992 that Hamilton took over as head coach of UNB's men's basketball team. As coach, he formed the successful Eric Garland tournament and played an integral role in the men's hockey team hosting back-to-back Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) championships. The 2004 championships were huge success stories, with the campus jam-packed during the games.

Under his guidance, UNB also landed the 2006 CIS women's basketball championships.

Reflecting on his time at UNB, Hamilton said he will miss the sense of community the most.

"When I look at it, there's been a number of positive things and fun memories," he said, "including being able to connect the community with the university, and making the campus aware of what kind of contributions student athletes make to the university."

At UNB, Hamilton was focused only on the athletics program in kinesiology. Here at UVic, the program, student base and budget are quite a bit larger than at UNB.

Hamilton said he is eager to get started.

"I'd like to sit down with those in the program and discuss current operations—things that are working well with an eye to how we can best serve our student base," he said. "I'd like to engage students, alumni and the community to build on what is already a model of excellence at UVic."

"I am extremely pleased with the appointment of Clint to this important role at UVic," said Jack Falk, UVic's vice-president of finance and operations.

"The outstanding successes achieved by our athletic program and strong degree of participation in our recreation program is in part due to the excellent leadership we have had in the past years. UVic is proud of its successes and I look forward to Clint's contribution as we continue to pursue excellence in academics, athletics and recreation."

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FLOW: WEEKLY DECLARATIONS OF SWEAT

Congested waves make for frustrated surfers

by Rich Cole

Last Saturday can best be summed up with a statement from another surfer: "You have no fucking business out here." None of us did.

The weekend's heavy storm system brought in epic seven-foot swells to Sombrio Beach. But underneath the chubby surfboards, the thick wetsuits with the mini-brimmed hoodies and all the rest of that cute little razzmatazz laid a frosty reality: it's Canada, land of only a handful of breaks and an ever-expanding multitude of ravenous surfers.

It being my first day out all season, I naïvely romanced the sport. I probably should have joined all the raingear-clad tourists swarming from their Volkswagen vans in the parking lot and just gawked at the rolling spectacle from shore. But I was intoxicated by the massive waves and paddled out instead.

Finally gaining my balance after a few short rides on the smaller whitewash, I headed out to the curls for a good ole oceanic humbling. Duck-diving churning wave after churning wave, I slowly inched my long board toward the break.

It was big. Much bigger than I'd ever seen. But there was a problem. Black-hooded surfers speckled all areas of the foamy water, waiting for their opening on a wave.

I looked over at a dude with a goatee on my right and yelled, "It's so friggin' crowded out here."

He slowly shook his head and continued to paddle circles, in denial that he wasn't alone.

Saltwater numbed my throat with each missed wave. And each big wave I paddled for would be vetoed by another surfer weaseling their way between myself and the curl.

Finally, after a few sets of nothing, I opted for a smaller wave, found an opening, and stood up for a few sacred seconds. The ocean picked me up and I felt the air rush past my face. A solid ride.

I cut back and followed the single-file line of surfers paddling back out, fighting the waves we privately awed. And when we got close to the break again, we dispersed to avoid the guys riding out another curl.

And that's when it happened. A dude on a skinny board was riding a wave directly ahead. Sensing disaster, I changed directions and paddled flat out towards the finished break. But he did the same thing. At the last second, I jumped off my board and ducked under just as he cut over and smoked my longboard.

Bam! Enter the complex hierarchy of cold-water surfing.

"What the fuck were you doing?"

"Paddling back like everyone else. You cut back at the last second," I yelled and then braced myself as the next wave crashed over us.

"What the fuck?" He took a close look at my board. "You have no fucking business being out here. Go back to Long Beach with that huge driftwood."

I stuck out my glove. "Dude, chill. It's a huge surf and this place is too fucking crowded."

We shook gloves and headed our separate ways back into the break. As I waited for wave after wave, only to be denied again, I too began to loathe the other surfers. Missing wave after wave, I blamed them for simply being there.

In surf slang this is called "localism." Natives get territorial when others encroach on their wave. But it's a trivial defence. Truth is that it's a free ocean and crowds are the price everyone pays for the sport's development.

While their equipment might be warmer, local surfers are still frosty to the idea of outsiders coming to shred waves on their turf. Can't say I blame them. City angst mixed with crowded surf provides a noxious mix. But with only a few surfable beaches, there's no real solution but compassioned acceptance. Fundamentally everyone's there for the same reasons.

Women's soccer team tie season opener

UVic Vikes #20 Moria Hood blasts past a pair of UBC defenders in last Thursday's tied opening game.

NIC HUME PHOTO

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ON CAMPUS

Iraq War Resister and ex-soldier, Brandon Hughey speaks. Mon, Sept. 27, 7 p.m., UVic, Human & Social Dev. Bldg. Rm A240.
www.resisters.ca

Privatization & The Public Sphere:A talk by Brewster Kneen—author of *Farmageddon.* September 28, 3 p.m. HSD A240

UVic Medieval Club AGM: Wed. Sept. 26 at 7pm, SUB B110b. For info call 477-3222.

UVSS Women's Centre presents Body Image Discussion Group: free group in W.C. every second Monday starting Sept. 27th, 4-5:30. contact Kristi 472-3096. kexley@uvic.ca

With Words: A literary Fundraiser for the Kelly Curtis Memorial Fund Sept. 30, 7-11 p.m. at I.Q. Bistro, Grad Centre. Poetry by English professors and students.
food, bar, door & raffle prizes. $15 & $7.
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VENUS RISING!
The Greater Vancouver Island Sculptors Guild will have an exhibit and sale of sculpture created from a variety of materials to capture man's whimsical, emotional and imaginative relationship with the sea at The Maritime Museum of BC, Bastion Square, Victoria. Show runs from June 25 - October 17, 2004. Hours are daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (250) 642-6065.

Good-Hearted Volunteers Needed!
At Recreation Integration Victoria we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. By making only a small time commitment, you could have the power to change someone's life. Looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. To get involved or for more information, please call Dustin at 477-6314

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Women's History Month at St.Ann's Academy Friday, Oct. 1, 7-9 p.m. **Take Back the Night Walk. Gather outside St.Ann's Academy and walk through Beacon Hill Park. Meet at the grand staircase in front of St. Ann's Academy. Sponsored by the Women's Sexual Assault Centre.**

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Get better soon Mom—Love Norman.

Hey Mr. I-ride-my-bike-around-with-a-bird-on-my-shoulder, I don't know if you realize this, but your back is covered in bird droppings. It ain't very flattering.

Hey you lying backstabbing spineless jellyfish of a roommate—you're beneath contempt. It's people like you that make the world not worth living in. I hate it here.

Atilla, why can't you be more like Georgina and not eat the carpet? Why? Next time I will ... Well. You don't even want to know. That carpet is important.

TC: You looked so cute in that little desk with a hole for an ink bottle. You really should have purchased it.

Meow meow meow meow. Meow meow meow meow. Meow meow meow.

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Hey guys! The shower's free.
I call dibbs!
Bullshit!
Well then, it's on!
Bring it!
Here it is!
You said to bring it, so I brought it!
Mike... what is that? And how long have you had it?
This is my pet. It's been in the box ever since the accident.
Alright, I'm going to teach Mike about decomposition. As for you, it's on!
Oh, hella!
...hella?
...sorry.

SAM & FUZZY
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...AND WHEN I GOT HOME, I WAS SO STONED THAT IT TOOK ME LIKE TWO FREAKING HOURS JUST TO GET MY DAMN SHOES ON.
HUH HUH... COOL.
HEY KIDS, YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S EVEN COOLER THAN GETTING STONED? NOT GETTING STONED. YEAH!
WHATEVER, MAN.
LAME.
FUZZY, HELP ME OUT, HERE.
PFT! POT IS FOR SIX-YEAR-OLDS AND GRANDMAS. REAL MEN DO CROWBARS.
...UH, YEAH, I DO CROWBARS. LET'S DO SOME CROWBARS.
WHiiiiiFFFF!
CLANG!
GAH!
OW!
SMACK!
AH!
AH AH!
OOH!
KRAK!
KRIK
KRAK!
CRUNCH!
I'M A LITTLE IFFY ON WHAT MESSAGE YOU WERE TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO THOSE KIDS, THERE, FUZZ.
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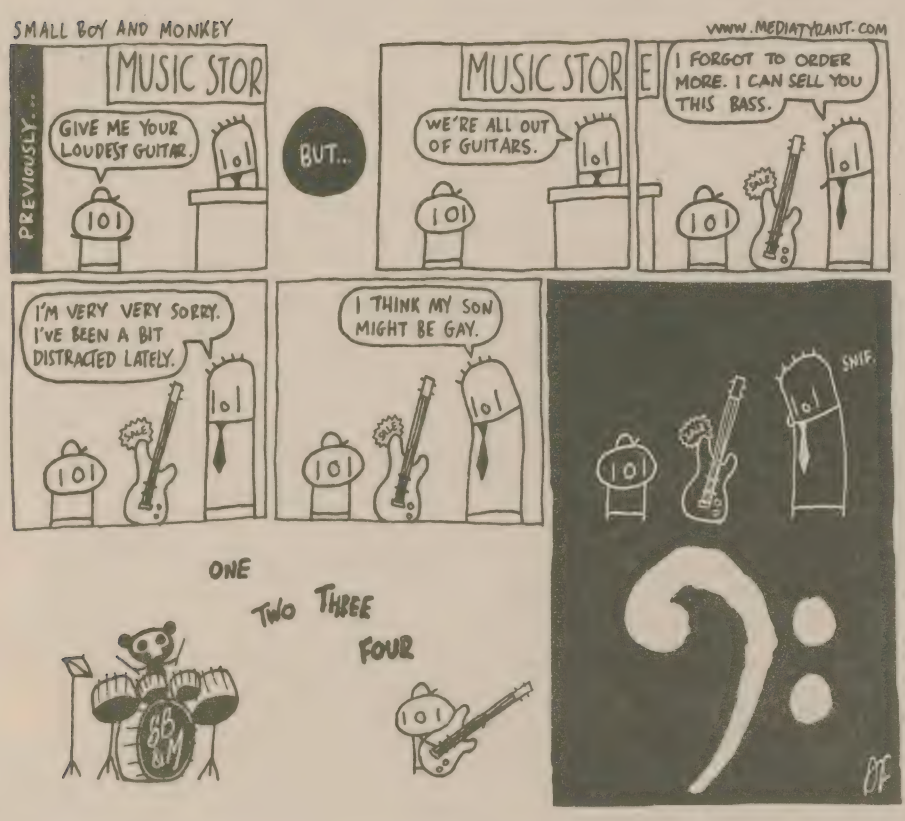

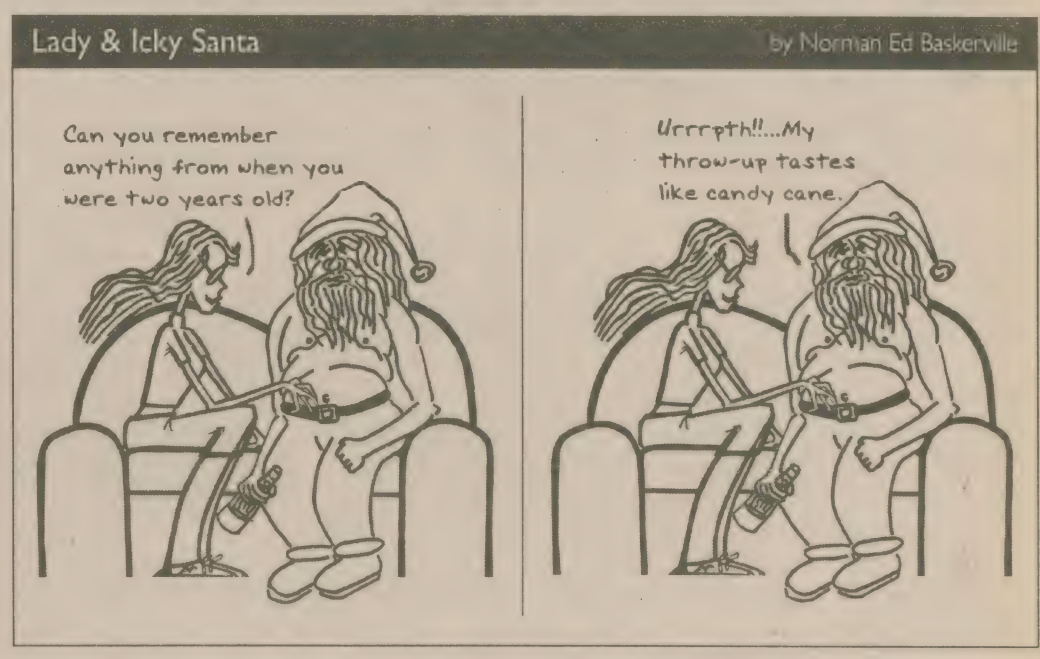
Lady & Icky Santa
by Norman Ed Baskerville
Can you remember anything from when you were two years old?
Urrrpth!!...My throw-up tastes like candy cane.

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